

Quotable Facts About Colorado's School Libraries

Make the grade @your library™

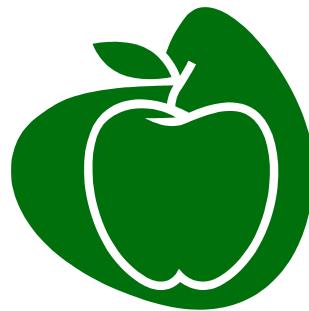
The Good News...

- Individual students visit school libraries for information literacy instruction over 180,000 times weekly. Each week school is in session, that would fill Invesco Field at Mile High twice and still leave an overflow.
- Weekly visits to Colorado school libraries equals annual visits to Mesa Verde National Park.

In Colorado elementary schools where teachers and librarians collaborate most, CSAP scores average about 20% higher than for schools without such collaboration.

The Good News (cont'd)...

- School libraries outnumber McDonald's restaurants in Colorado 7 to 1.
- Colorado's school libraries have over 12 million books, almost a dozen for each state resident under 18 years old.
- Students can access licensed databases via 85,000 computers located throughout schools — 1 for every 9 students.
- On average, students check out a book per week from Colorado's school libraries.

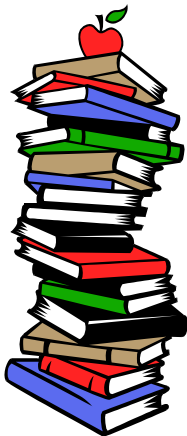


"School libraries help teachers teach and children learn. Children and teachers need library resources — especially books — and the expertise of a librarian to succeed."

**-- First Lady and former school librarian
Laura Bush**

The Bad News...

- Since 2000, the number of students in Colorado public schools has risen more than 1%, but school library budgets are down almost 10%.
- Statewide the state pupil/teacher ratio is almost 17 to 1. The pupil/librarian ratio is over 710 to 1.
- Two out of five Colorado schools lack a qualified librarian.
- Annual spending on print materials for Colorado's school libraries buys about 1/2 of a book per pupil.



More Bad News...

- On average, Colorado's starting school librarians are paid less than tile setters despite the fact that most librarians have a master's degree, a teaching license, and a library endorsement.
- Colorado school libraries spend \$1.5 million, about \$2.00/pupil, on materials in electronic format and electronic access to information. That is less than 1/3 of what the Colorado Rockies have spent on a first baseman.
- Half of Colorado school library books are over 15 years old. From a book that old, a student wouldn't know about the fall of the Berlin Wall.



Based on School Library Survey data available at:

http://www.LRS.org/school_lib.html

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