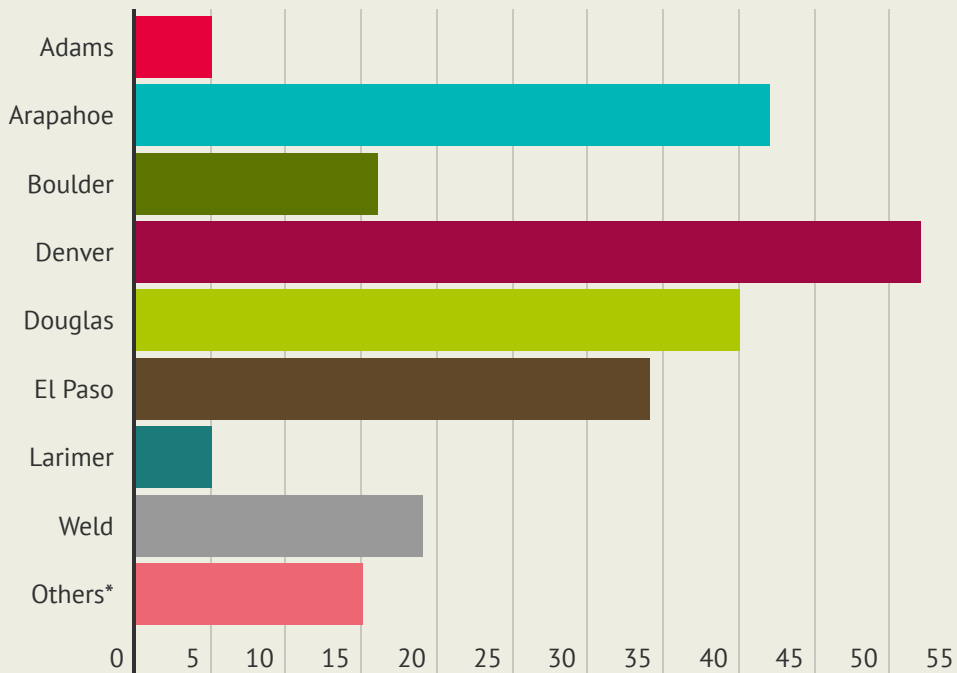


School Libraries Survey Report 2022-23

Between February and March of 2023, a survey was sent out to school library professionals across Colorado. We wanted to gain a better idea of staffing, services provided, and the needs of school libraries and their staff. This information will help guide the Colorado State Library and other organizations invested in Colorado school libraries to improve their services to the staff and by extension Colorado students. While reading this report, please remember that not all schools reported on all questions, therefore total numbers may differ between charts.

Responses by District



*Others include: Alamosa, Baca, Clear Creek, Delta, Hinsdale, Huerfano, Kit Carson, Mesa, Montezuma, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo, and Routt

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April 2023, Library Research Service

INSTITUTE of Library SERVICES
This project was made possible in part by the
Institute of Museum and Library Services

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COLORADO State Library

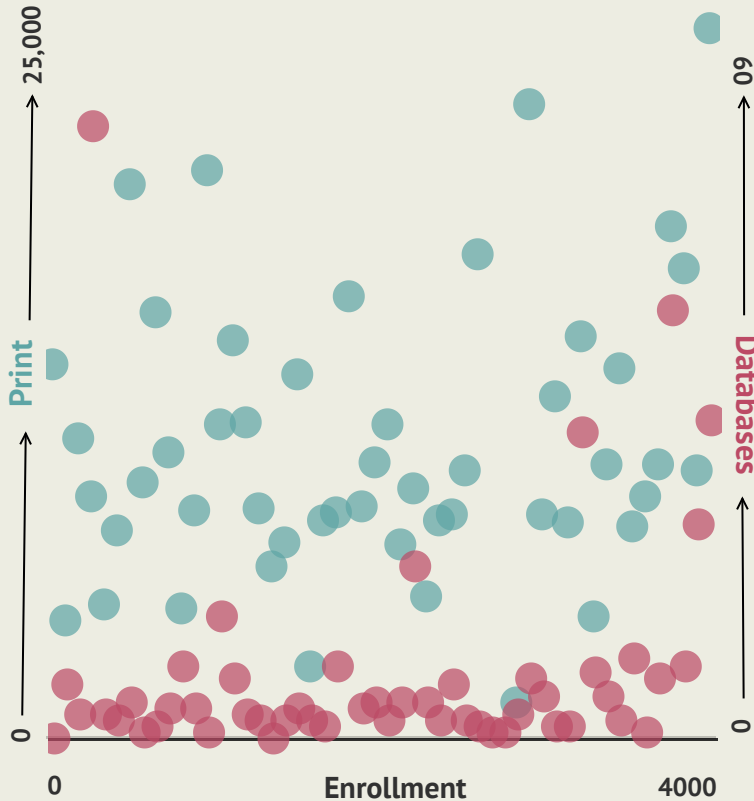
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What do we have in our school libraries?

Most schools in our survey have between 5,001-10,000 print books in their collection. There were only a few schools with more than 45,000 books. The largest collection we found was 242,502 and the smallest was 8. The average age of the print collections was 15 years old.

Availability of databases (not including access to the public library) revealed that access to databases is an issue. Roughly 50% of schools have access to only 1-5 databases. 21% have access to 6-10 databases, and 25% have access to greater than 11.



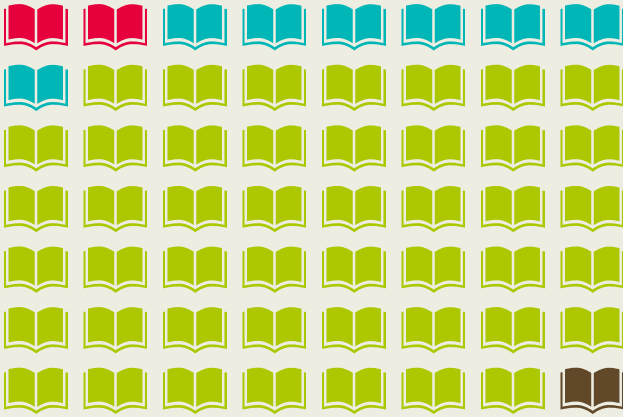
Interestingly, there wasn't any significant correlation between number of students enrolled, and number of print volumes available nor enrollment and number of online databases (for reporting schools). However, without representative district data, we cannot determine if this has to do with district-level funding or something else.

It was also interesting to note that just because a library had a higher number of eBooks and eAudiobooks, it did not necessarily mean that their print collection got smaller.



When can students visit their school libraries?

Hours Open During School Day



● 1-3 hours ● 4-6 Hours ● 6-8 Hours ● Not Open

During a regular school day, the vast majority of libraries are open for 6-8 hours with only 2 schools responding "The library is not open during school hours."

Hours Open Before and/or After School

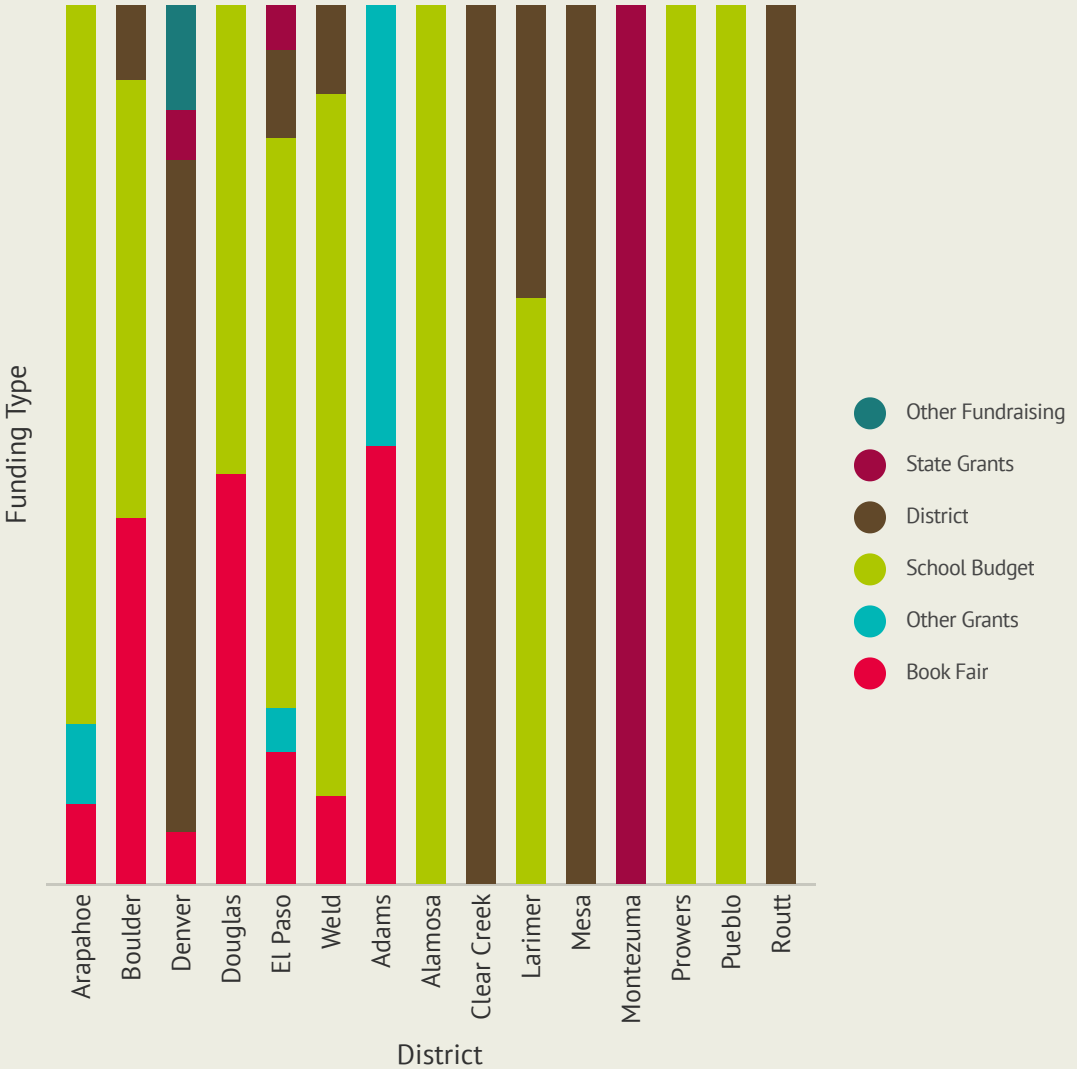


● 1-2 hours ● 2-3 Hours ● 3-4 Hours
● 4 Or More Hours ● Less Than 1 Hour ● Not Open

Most schools (86%) are open for 2 hours or less before and/or after school. The "Lights on After School" program calls the 3 hours after school "critical." Only 15% of school libraries are open during this time.

How are our school libraries funded?

There is a mixture of funding sources among school libraries in CO with most money coming from school budgets, district-level funding, and book fairs. Keep in mind that this question asked for the *primary* funding source, and that other funding may be used. It's important to note that the primary funding source varied by school within districts and the following only reflects funding for schools that reported and may not always generalize across a district..



Advocacy, Policy & Training

When asked if the school district has a **policy or contractual obligation** regarding library staffing, only 6 of 234 respondents said "yes" with the majority of respondents saying "unsure." The following were listed as policies or contractual obligations.

- "The school library media program is an integral part of the educational process in providing instructional resources and services that support the district curriculum and education goals of individual schools."
- "A yearly 'Notice of Assignment'."
- "Within the entire district, there needs to be at least 1 certified librarian that has a Master's in Library and Information Science."
- "Every library has a certified teacher librarian (if possible) and at least a part-time paraprofessional."
- "Full-time librarian for 350 students or more."
- "Certified teacher comes with class."

We received a lot of input about training for library staff. The most frequent request was for help with collection development which includes purchasing, weeding, cataloging, and collection diversification. 21st Century Librarian skills were another big hit; these include topics such as maker spaces, Chat GPX, and other basic librarian skills. Advocacy is also clearly at the top of peoples' minds as we've seen a significant decrease in funding and staffing for our school libraries across the state.

Training Request by Certification

