



# Massachusetts School Library Association

## Massachusetts Library Association Youth Services Section

### Joint Statement

### School/Public Library Services to Children A Common Purpose with Similarities and Differences

#### Common Purposes or Goals:

- ❖ Introduce, promote, and encourage children to love and appreciate reading and good literature
- ❖ Develop capable critical users of information and technology
- ❖ Improve listening skills
- ❖ Foster visual literacy
- ❖ Assist children in understanding themselves and their world
- ❖ Encourage each child to develop to his/her fullest potential
- ❖ Develop life long learners

In order to accomplish these goals, each type of library provides a safe welcoming environment with appropriate resources, and a caring, knowledgeable, well trained staff.

Although each type of library works in similar ways toward similar goals, differences exist.

#### Public Library

#### School Library

#### Users

General public including: infant, preschool and school age children, young adults, college students, parents, adults, and professionals serving children (authors, publishers, illustrators, editors, teachers, professors, child care providers)

Specific audience including:  
Students preK-12  
Teachers  
Parents  
Administrators  
Parent volunteers  
School support staff

#### Collection

Based on overall community needs:  
Supports recreational interests  
Reinforces homework assignments  
Provides popular materials  
Supports the needs of adults serving children

Based on curriculum and instructional needs:  
Implements the curriculum  
Complements course work  
Supports units of study  
Provides for limited recreational needs  
Supports the needs of faculty and staff

#### Service to Users

Reader recommendations  
Homework assignments  
Community networking  
Community outreach (off site programs)  
Interlibrary loan  
Year round and after school programming (story hours, entertainment, arts & crafts, book discussion groups, author/illustrator visits, summer reading program)

Instruction in information/research skills and use of information technology  
School/education organization networking  
Curriculum planning & development  
Team teaching  
Distance learning programs/courses  
Resource and literature recommendations  
Education technology assistance  
School year programs (book fairs, story hour, book discussion groups, author/illustrator visits)

#### Primary Role of Librarian

Providing access to books, information, and programming which support community needs

Teaching the process of information retrieval, research, and interpretation, and providing resources that support the educational program.

Adopted by MSLA & MLA April 1994  
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*To meet the needs of the entire community, both school and public libraries are required. The similar and different missions, resources, staff, and programs provide the full range of resources, materials and services necessary for each child to develop to his/her fullest potential through lifelong learning. Therefore, MLA/ CIS and MSLA encourage cooperation, support resource sharing, and promote each other's programs and services to and for all children.*