

Resources

- “Manifesto for 21st Century School Librarians” by Joyce Kasman Valenza
<http://tinyurl.com/274zkpz>
- “The 3rd Colorado Study 2010”
www.lrs.org/impact.php
- Colorado Library 2.0
<http://web20.coceforum.org>
- “Highly Effective School Library Programs” Competencies
www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/powerlib
- The new P–12 Academic Standards
www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/UAS/CoAcademicStandards.html
- Educator Effectiveness
www.cde.state.co.us/EducatorEffectiveness
- “Machines are the easy part; people are the hard part: Observations about making technology work in schools—Second Edition” by Doug Johnson (downloadable book)
- “The Role of School Librarians in Promoting the Use of Educational Technologies” ISTE Media Specialist (SIGMS) Executive Advocacy Committee
<http://tinyurl.com/29j6u4v>
- “The Scoop: The CDE Weekly Newsletter”
Send an e-mail to CDE_Communications_Office@cde.state.co.us with “Sign Me Up For The Scoop” in the subject line.



In today's difficult economic times, many school districts are choosing to cut non-classroom teaching positions. However, these cuts run counter to a large body of research that indicates a strong library program, staffed by certified school librarians, correlates with significantly greater student achievement (see 3rd Colorado Study and ISTE in “Resources”). Use these tips and other leadership strategies to help you develop an effective library program that impacts student achievement and makes you an indispensable school librarian.

cde Improving Academic Achievement



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[www.ColoradoStateLibrary.org/
LibraryDevelopment/SchoolLibraries](http://www.ColoradoStateLibrary.org/LibraryDevelopment/SchoolLibraries)

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Seven Tips for an ESSENTIAL School Library Program:

How to Remain Indispensable in Tough Budget Times

Your Checklist

- ✓ Know Your State Initiatives
- ✓ Identify 21st Century Skills
- ✓ Become a Power Library
- ✓ Embrace Instructional Leadership
- ✓ Recruit Non-Library Advocates
- ✓ Stay Relevant and Current
- ✓ Evaluate Your Online Presence



Seven Tips for an Indispensable School Library Program

Know Your State Initiatives

Become the building and/or district expert in helping to implement the new Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) and the Educator Effectiveness Initiative.

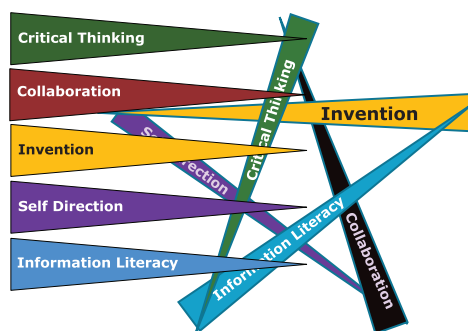
Helpful Idea: Sign up to receive CDE's weekly e-mailing of The Scoop" to stay informed (see "Resources").

Identify 21st Century Skills

It's not just "technology". Collaboration, critical thinking, self-direction, invention and information literacy are the five major components of 21st century learners.

Helpful Idea: Help your staff and students learn how to use these skills in meaningfully connected ways with the new Colorado Academic Standards (see "Resources").

21st Century Skills



Become a Power Library

Assess your library program using the new "Highly Effective School Library Programs" competencies, a self-evaluative tool that allows you and your principal to set school-aligned goals for improvement. Any school can use this program-enhancing rubric.

Helpful Idea: Take advantage of the Power Library Program (PLP) training and mentoring opportunities to help you reach your goals (see "Resources").



Embrace Instructional Leadership

What are your school's goals? What initiatives does your principal want to implement in your building?

"If you can't list the top three things that your supervisor worries about, your job may be vulnerable."

—Doug Johnson

Helpful Idea: Develop a curriculum map for your school. Help your principal co-teach on a school initiative, such as differentiation or RtI. Let your principal know of your efforts!

Recruit Non-Library Advocates

Make sure that teachers, parents and parent groups, administrators, social groups, businesses, board members and others understand what you do, as a school librarian, **to foster student growth and achievement.**

Helpful Idea: Recruit teacher, principal and/or parent advocates to promote your impact on student growth and achievement.



Stay Relevant and Current

Today's parents want good teachers who have the ability to meaningfully teach technology. Helping our students become "post-graduate and work force ready" as 21st century learners is a national initiative that we must embrace.

Helpful Idea: Still on a learning curve with technology? Try the mini-tutorials at "Colorado Libraries 2.0." Try using Google Docs when planning a lesson with one willing teacher. Find out how to subscribe to an RSS feed using Google Reader. Set realistic goals and commit to learning and using something new each month.



Evaluate Your Online Presence

"Librarians must teach everywhere, in and outside of the library."

—Joyce Valenza

A functional and up-to-date online presence is a must in today's culture. More computer access means less physical presence in your library.

Helpful Idea: Look critically at your current library website. Is it easy to navigate, with useful resources geared toward school needs and 24/7 access to your school databases? If not, seek help with redesigning it.