



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.

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.

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MSLA
PO Box 658
Lunenburg, MA 01462
Phone/fax 978-582-6967
<http://www.maschoollibraries.org>

MLA
P.O. Box 1445
Marstons Mills, MA 02648
Phone/fax 508 428-5865
<http://www.masslib.org>