

Alaska's Education Challenge: School Library Talking Points

“Through a process of gathering public input, the State Board of Education has already identified five priorities for Alaska’s public education system: Improve Student Learning, Ensure Excellent Educators, Modernize the Education System, Inspire Tribal and Community Ownership, and Promote Safety and Well-being. Alaskans are encouraged to express their priorities for public education reform [in a new online survey](#). The survey is the first step in the State Board of Education’s participatory process to meet Governor Walker’s Alaska Education Challenge.” from <https://gov.alaska.gov/administration-focus/alaskas-education-challenge/>

According to Alaska DEED on Twitter, there have been 1108 responses to the survey as of February 24th.

Let's flood the survey with responses about the importance of school libraries and librarians.

To take the survey:

Go to <https://education.alaska.gov/> then click on



and then click on

TAKE THE ONLINE SURVEY

Need ideas on what to say? Turn to the next page...

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Talking Points Aligned to the Governor's Priorities:

1. Improve Student Learning

- “A credentialed school librarian, collaboration and co-teaching, technology access, and collection size all elevate student learning.” (School Libraries Work, 2016, 1).
- Librarians teach the skills needed to bridge the college readiness gap.
- Critical thinking and research skills are often the skills students lack that would enable them to succeed.

2. Ensure Excellent Educators

- School librarians model & provide teacher training on how to engage in effective information literacy, copyright, digital citizenship, & instructional tech practices.
- School librarians model and provide training to teachers on intellectual freedom and privacy rights for themselves and our students.
- Collaborating with a librarian increases teacher self-efficacy, which improves student achievement.

3. Modernize the Education System

- Librarians are the starting point for personalization; helping students become lifelong learners by teaching skills & providing resources for any need.
- School libraries provide a balanced collection of relevant, engaging resources that inspire students to read, explore, communicate, and think critically.
- Libraries are not just about books and databases. Today's school libraries are hands on.
- Libraries use maker spaces and technology to inspire learners; connect them to new interests; & teach critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication.

4. Inspire Tribal & Community Ownership

- Libraries are community spaces that are open to everyone.
- Librarians work to protect individual rights and freedoms while encouraging collaboration to meet common goals for all community members.

5. Promote Safety & Well-Being

- Libraries are a third space for students; providing a safe and welcoming space where all students can be welcomed and accepted.
- Libraries provide academic skills & life skills via maker spaces that allow students to engage in hands-on learning, as well as curated collections of information.
- Libraries connect people with resources, and also people with experts and agencies that can offer them support.