

This resolution was adopted by the ALA Council on Tuesday, June 28, 2016

**Resolution on Equity for School Libraries for the
Department of Education Making Rules for ESSA**

Whereas equity of access is one of five key action areas adopted by the American Library Association to fulfill its mission of providing the highest quality library and information services for all people;

Whereas the American Library Association values our nation's diversity and strives to reflect that diversity by providing a full spectrum of resources and services to everyone in the communities we serve (ALA Policy 53.9 Libraries: An American Value);

Whereas school districts providing high-quality library instructional materials for students and teachers, including print and digital learning materials, textbooks, and other materials, should ensure that students have equitable access to them without regard to race, color, national origin, or disability;

Whereas more than 60 studies in two dozen states show that the "levels of library funding, staffing levels, collection size and range, and the instructional role of the librarian all have a direct impact on student achievement." (Gretes 2013, page 2);

Whereas The Every Student Succeeds Act, signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 10, 2015, includes provisions that specifically support school libraries, school librarians, and the role they play in academic achievement, literacy, and digital citizenship, and reflects our national commitment to providing educational opportunities to "every child, regardless of race, income, background, the zip code where they live"; and

Whereas this critical role of school librarians is underscored by the recent announcement from the U.S. Department of Education that half of all Innovative Approaches to Literacy grants will continue to be awarded to school libraries;

Whereas the American Association of School Librarians has adopted the position statement that an effective school library program has a certified school librarian at the helm, personalized learning environments, and equitable access to resources to ensure a well-rounded education for every student; now, therefore, be it

Resolution on Equity for School Libraries for the Department of Education Making Rules for ESSA/2

Resolved, That the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. urges the United States Department of Education to address equity issues while developing the ESSA legislation rules regarding funding and staffing school libraries, and
2. shares the American Association of School Librarians' position statement on an effective school library program with the United States Department of Education.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, June 28, 2016, in Orlando, Florida



Keith Michael Fiels
Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council