

2012-05-08

School Library Services Initiative

Update: Transforming to a Learning Commons

Sykes, Judith

Sykes, J. "School Library Services Initiative Update: Transforming to a Learning Commons".
Presented at the 6th Canadian Learning Commons Conference, May 7-9, 2012, University of
Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

<http://hdl.handle.net/1880/49096>

Downloaded from PRISM Repository, University of Calgary

Alberta Education School Library Services Initiative

Canadian Learning Commons Conference
University of Calgary May 2012

SCHOOL LIBRARY SERVICES INITIATIVE



- External advisory committee includes Alberta Teachers' Association, all Alberta library associations
- Inter-branch committee includes Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Advanced Education and Technology



RESEARCH

- Extensive research (21 states, Ontario) supports a correlation between student achievement and quality school libraries. (Krashen; Lance)
- *Achieving Information Literacy, Standards for School Library Programs in Canada* (2003); *American Association of School Librarians. Standards for the 21st-Century Learner* (2007)

Other Ministries:

- *Connections: Policy and Guidelines for School Libraries in Saskatchewan (2008)*
- *Ontario School Library Association.*
Together for Learning: School Libraries and the Emergence of the Learning Commons.
(2010) Ontario Library Association

Learning Commons Perspective

- Supports collaboration (staff, students, other libraries) through a contextual plan that is part of the whole school plan focused on student learning outcomes



Learning Commons Environment



- Physical and virtual spaces support critical thinking, student access to current print and digital information through school library teams teams (real and virtual librarians)
- School Library Services Initiative Background - FAQs, Survey results, Research Paper

Learning Commons Climate



- “Learning laboratory”: critical thinking, inquiry, action research, interdisciplinary
- Active learning: project and problem-based, experiential, knowledge building centers
- The Written Word - **reading** in multiple formats to access, examine, evaluate, restructure, create, communicate, reflect
[Learning Commons website](#)

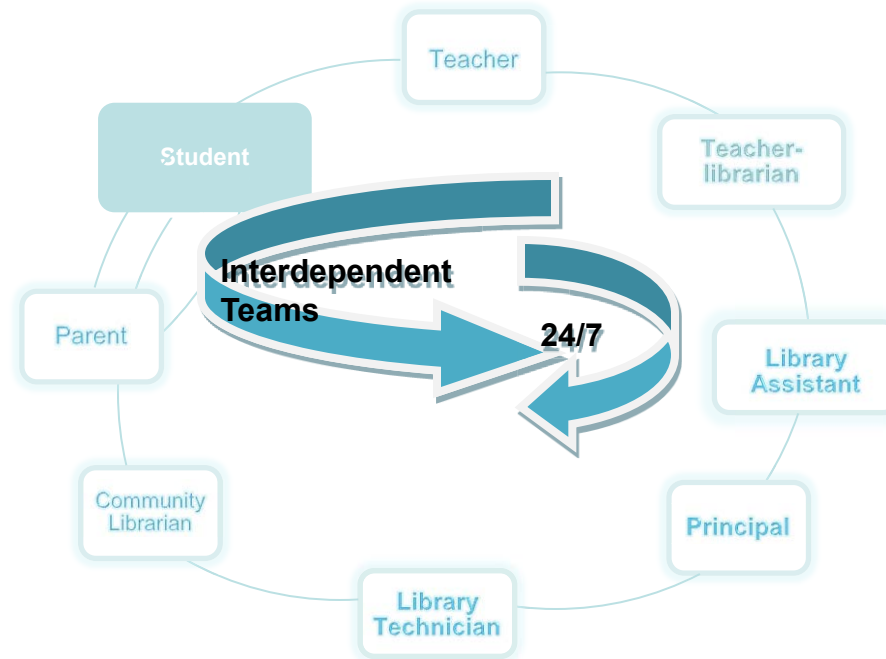
Alignments

- *Our Children Our Future: Getting it Right*
- *Framework for Student Learning: Competencies for Engaged Thinkers and Ethical Citizens with an Entrepreneurial Spirit*
- GOA Integrated Library Policy (under development)

SUPPORTS

Implementation Supports Sub-Committee

- Team roles, Responsibilities, Examples



Seamless Access Strategies for Library Services Sub-Committee

- Planning templates, checklists
- Collaboration with other libraries



Licensing Digital Content Sub-Committee

Core databases

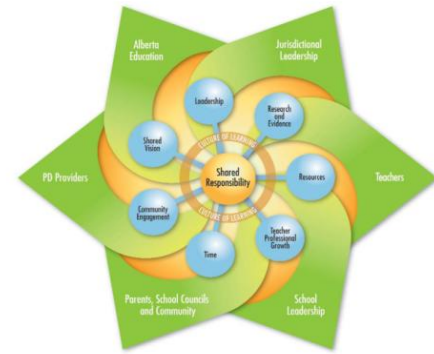
- World Book
- General Reference Centre
- National Geographic
- Academic Search
- Canadian Periodical Index
- Canadian Newstand



On-line Reference Center (ORC) as part
of LearnAlberta.ca

In-service

Sub-Committee



- Library and education conferences
- Curriculum Co-ordinator Meetings/Corner
 - *School Library Services Plan Template: Transitioning to a Learning Commons - Guiding Questions*