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The Honorable Nick Brown
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October 16, 2025

The Honorable Nick Brown
Attorney General, Washington State
P.O. Box 40100
Olympia, WA 98504-0100

Dear Attorney General Brown,

We are writing to request an official Attorney General's Opinion from your office regarding the interpretation of [RCW 28A.320.240](#), specifically whether interpretation of this statute allows a school district to completely eliminate school library information technology programs or to choose not to hire a certificated teacher librarian to oversee the program in making a determination regarding "necessary" use of resources for this purpose.

RCW 28A.320.240 states the following:

School library information and technology programs—Resources and materials—Teacher-librarians.

- (1) The purpose of this section is to identify quality criteria for school library information and technology programs that support the student learning goals under RCW [28A.150.210](#), the *essential academic learning requirements under RCW [28A.655.070](#), and high school graduation requirements adopted under RCW [28A.230.090](#).
- (2) Every board of directors shall provide resources and materials for the operation of school library information and technology programs as the board deems necessary for the proper education of the district's students or as otherwise required by law or rule of the superintendent of public instruction.
- (3) "Teacher-librarian" means a certificated teacher with a library media endorsement under rules adopted by the professional educator standards board.
- (4) "School library information and technology program" means a school-based program that is staffed by a certificated teacher-librarian and provides a broad, flexible array of services, resources, and instruction that support student mastery of the *essential academic learning requirements and state standards in all subject areas and the implementation of the district's school improvement plan.
- (5) The teacher-librarian, through the school library information and technology program, shall collaborate as an instructional partner to help all students meet the content goals in all subject areas, and assist high school students completing high school and beyond plans required for graduation.
- (6) The teacher-librarian's duties may include, but are not limited to, collaborating with his or her schools to:
 - (a) Integrate information and technology into curriculum and instruction, including but not limited to instructing other certificated staff about using and integrating information and technology literacy into instruction through workshops, modeling lessons, and individual peer coaching;

(b) Provide information management instruction to students and staff about how to effectively use emerging learning technologies for school and lifelong learning, as well as in the appropriate use of computers and mobile devices in an educational setting;

(c) Help teachers and students efficiently and effectively access the highest quality information available while using information ethically;

(d) Instruct students in digital citizenship including how to be critical consumers of information and provide guidance about thoughtful and strategic use of online resources; and

(e) Create a culture of reading in the school community by developing a diverse, student-focused collection of materials that ensures all students can find something of quality to read and by facilitating school-wide reading initiatives along with providing individual support and guidance for students.

The primary question we have is: Does the language in Section (2) "Every board of directors SHALL provide resources and materials for the operation of school library information and technology programs AS THE BOARD DEEMS NECESSARY for the proper education of the district's students or as otherwise required by law or rule of the superintendent of public instruction" give a school district board of directors the authority to eliminate a whole school library program in a school or district?

A second question is, considering the language in Section (4) and (5), is a school district with a school library information and technology program required under this law to use teacher-librarians (as defined in Section (3) to staff a school library information and technology program.

Given the consistent support from the Washington State Legislature for school library information technology programs based on their importance to student learning and success, we are seeking this clarification as a necessary part of discussions regarding K-12 school funding in general. Your guidance on this matter will be invaluable to helping with informed decisions in this process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Eslick
State Representative
39th Legislative District



Alicia Rule
State Representative
42nd Legislative District