

Superintendent FIRST LAST
SAMPLE School District
ADDRESS
CITY, OH ZIP

Dear Superintendent Last:

As officers of the Ohio Educational Library Media Association (OELMA), we are concerned that the SAMPLE School District is planning to let go the district's only certified library media specialist. Though this may not be an uncommon occurrence in Ohio, it is particularly disappointing that a quality school district like SAMPLE sees no other choice than this action in an effort to manage a tight budget situation.

Like many other Ohio districts, SAMPLE Local is dealing with the pressures of NCLB and the mandated continuous improvement of all students. To achieve excellence, each school district must bring to bear every weapon in its academic arsenal on the challenges presented by NCLB and the current State scorecard process. Research has proven that professional school librarians are powerful collaborators with classroom teachers that can enhance student success.

Even in the early grades, certified library media specialists provide inspiration to young learners and instill in them the importance of -- and the joy of -- reading and learning. Research confirms that reading frequency has direct correlation with vocabulary growth, reading fluency, and increased test scores.

We empathize with your district's fiscal problems and the tough decisions required to balance the budget. However, a strong library program, led by credentialed professionals, is necessary to optimize student learning in today's information-rich environment.

We urge the SAMPLE Local Board of Education and your administration to find ways to balance the budget that are less harmful to student achievement.

Sincerely,

Marie Sabol , 2009 President
Sarah Thornbery , 2010 President-elect
Diane Smith , Secretary
Cynthia DuChane, Treasurer
Kathy Halsey , Immediate Past President