



Is a district required to hire/retain school librarians?

In Texas, school districts have discretionary authority over school library staffing and programs. Neither state nor federal statute requires that a school librarian be assigned to every campus. However, state regulations do address library facilities, certified librarians, and state standards for school libraries.

Is a school required to have a library facility?

Authorizing legislation/regulation: [TAC, Title 19, Part 2, Chapter 61, Subchapter CC, Rule §61.1036 \(a\)\(8\)](#)

These standards are part of the Commissioner of Education's rules, requiring libraries for schools constructed after January 2004. The standards define the library as a "major support area" and specifically detail the physical requirements for these post-2004 libraries, including required space, program areas, shelving, design specifications, and technology needs.

Can a campus staff a library with other than a certified librarian?

Authorizing legislation/regulation: [TEC, Chapter 21.003 \(a\)](#)

The state specifies that a district or campus can only report an educator as a "school librarian" if that educator is certified as a school librarian. A school or a district cannot inform the public that a school staff includes a librarian unless that individual is a certified school librarian.

Authorizing legislation/regulation: [TAC, Title 19, Part 7, Chapter 239, Subchapter B, Rule §239.60](#)

Requirements for the issuance of the Standard School Librarian Certificate include successful completion of a school librarian preparation program, successful completion of the school librarian examination, holding a master's degree from an accredited institution of higher education or other approved by an accrediting organization recognized by the Texas High Education Coordinating Board, and two creditable years of teaching experience as a classroom teacher.

What do the TX State School Library Standards and Guidelines say about school library requirements?

Authorizing legislation/regulation: [TAC, Title 13, Part 1, Chapter 4; TEC 33.021](#)

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission was charged with adopting standards for school library services. These guidelines, while not mandatory for every district, were to be considered when developing, implementing, or expanding library services. The 1997 standards were revised in 2005 to reflect the multi-faceted role of the librarian in student learning including the six components of school library programs and four levels for program assessment. See [Standards and Guidelines](#) for specifics.