



Canadian School Libraries

Excellent School Libraries: Learning for the Future

Every child in Canada deserves an excellent school library. Here's why.

"The school library – a centre piece in schools – is now the modern hub for learning."

The Learning Commons Mindset, Culture of Yes, Chris Kennedy

All schools in Canada need to be able to develop and support excellent school libraries responsive to the diverse needs of learners today and into the future. This means that all schools large and small, urban and rural, public and private, brick and mortar or virtual, need to provide access to teaching expertise in the library as well as best resources, technologies and physical and virtual learning spaces to support learner needs as they evolve. The transitioning of the school library to school library learning commons establishes the vision and structure to address these evolving needs and encourages continuous growth.

Leading Learning: Standards of Practice for School Library Learning Commons in Canada

Student Success and the School Library Learning Commons

To be successful learners today and in the future all students need an excellent physical and virtual school library learning commons to ensure they have equitable access to:



Participatory Learning Environments: Physical and virtual spaces designed to engage learners in interdisciplinary learning and collaborative knowledge building, and inspire experimentation, creativity, making and innovation. Entrepreneurial learning is the norm, and students learn through collaboration and authentic challenges.



Diverse Learning Resources: A broad range of culturally responsive and relevant print, digital and human resource collections that are curated by library professionals to meet all student needs and abilities. Curiosity and learning are fueled by students' freedom to choose from a rich and varied collection and to explore diverse ideas.



Active Learning Experiences: Designed to infuse inquiry learning approaches, evolving technologies and best resources as well as foster a love of reading and life-long learning. In the library learning commons everyone is a learner, and learning experiences empower intellectual, cultural and personal growth.



Expert Instruction and Guidance: Preparing students to become sophisticated users of information and ideas in our complex world as well as good digital citizens and contributors to building new knowledge. Students benefit from collaborative teaching that connects competencies for inquiry and critical thinking with content expectations across the curriculum.



The Bottom Line: Without an excellent school library functioning as a learning commons, students are severely disadvantaged.



What the Research Says

[CSL Research Archive](#)

[School Library Impact Studies](#)

"When provincial, national, or international learning assessments are analyzed, the areas of concern that emerge are frequently library-related, particularly in the realm of information literacy practices: formulating questions, identifying appropriate sources of information, locating information, distinguishing between relevant and irrelevant information." ([Oberg, 2012](#))

Here's How:



Leading Learning:

Standards of Practice for School Library Learning Commons in Canada



L'Apprentissage en tête:

Principes relatifs à la transition de la bibliothèque scolaire vers le carrefour d'apprentissage au Canada

Without an excellent school library functioning as a learning commons, students are severely disadvantaged. Students need to be working with the best technologies and resource collections available. They require expert instruction and guidance to become sophisticated users of information and ideas in our complex world. To meet their learning potential and participate fully as successful learners and contributors our students need learning opportunities and new environments deliberately designed to engage and inspire.

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