



**Michigan
Academic Library
Association**

March 27, 2018

2017/2018 Executive Board

President

Jessica Sender
Michigan State University

Vice President/President Elect

Paul Gallagher
Wayne State University

Past President

Stephanie Mathson
Central Michigan University

Treasurer

Jill Morningstar
Michigan State University

Secretary

Gina Bolger
Cornerstone University

Representatives

Julia Eisenstein
University of Detroit Mercy

Mary Kickham-Samy
Marygrove College

Kendra Lake
St. Clair County Community
College

Beth Martin
Grand Valley State University

Rebecca Renirie
Central Michigan University

Tina Ulrich
Northwestern Michigan
College

**1407 Rensen Street
Lansing, MI 48910
board@miala.org
www.miala.org**

MiALA Statement in Support of Michigan School Libraries

The Michigan Academic Library Association (MiALA) as an organization believes that Michigan's public, school, academic, and special libraries are connected, each serving Michigan's citizens at various points in their life. It is essential for libraries of all types to support each other, especially in times when outside support becomes more limited. In particular, school library media centers are an integral part of the K-12 education for the students in Michigan and provide a thirteen year foundation in teaching and learning.

Therefore, MiALA fully endorses the Michigan Department of Education and the Library of Michigan's support for school library media centers. In addition, MiALA recognizes that the employment of a full-time, certified, school librarian/Library Media Specialist is critical to the provision of an effective school library program. Vibrant, appropriately-staffed school libraries have direct impact on student achievement. Every student must be provided with the opportunity for equal access to resources and information, and all students learn critical literacy skills necessary for success in higher education as well as for life.

The Library Media Specialist is a credentialed educator and is highly qualified to teach the 21st Century skills our students need in order to be adequately prepared for college, careers, and lifelong learning. The Library Media Specialist is able to fully collaborate with classroom teachers in support of reading development, information and digital literacy skills, and curriculum development. MiALA supports efforts to ensure access for all Michigan students to fully-funded school libraries with appropriate resources, programming, and certified staff.