

S3258/A4500-School Librarians for Students



What is it?

School Library Media Specialists (SLMS) provide instruction in information literacy, develop and coordinate school library media center programs and resources, and help students develop vital critical thinking and research skills that translate into success in higher education and beyond.

Bill **S3258/A4500** would require that public school districts maintain ratios to ensure that students have access to trained school media specialists and a highly effective program.

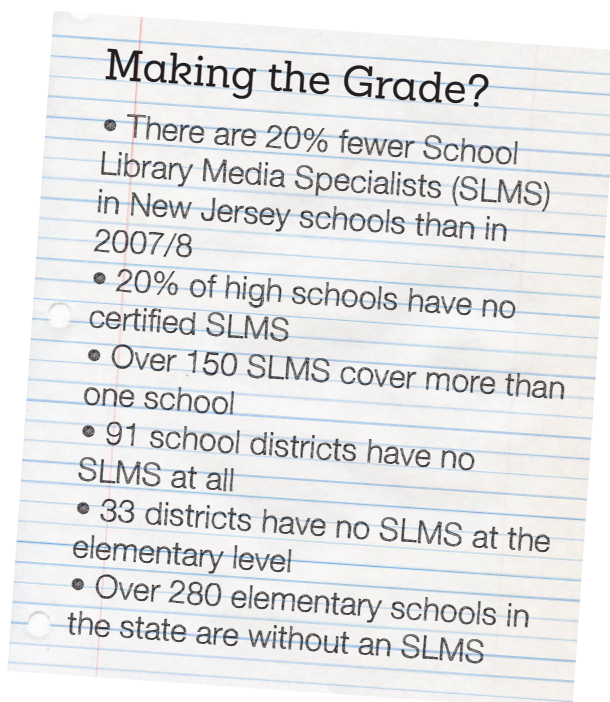
- In a public school with fewer than 300 students, one half-time SLMS per school
- In a public school with enrollment between 300 and 1,499 students, one full-time SLMS per school
- In a public school with enrollment of more than 1,500 students, two full-time SLMS per school

The bill also has provisions to ensure that these SLMS's would have ample time to devote to school library work that would align with and enhance school curriculum, making important connections for student success.



Where do we stand now?

Senator James Beach (D-6) and Assemblywoman Shavonda E. Sumter and Assemblyman Benjie E. Wimberly (D-35) are primary sponsors - **please join them in co-sponsoring this important legislation!**



Making the Grade?

- There are 20% fewer School Library Media Specialists (SLMS) in New Jersey schools than in 2007/8
- 20% of high schools have no certified SLMS
- Over 150 SLMS cover more than one school
- 91 school districts have no SLMS at all
- 33 districts have no SLMS at the elementary level
- Over 280 elementary schools in the state are without an SLMS



Why support it?

The bill will aid in student outcomes on a number of levels:

- Students will be prepared for today's competitive workforce
- Students develop research, information and digital literacy skills critical for college and career readiness
- Increased equitable access to technology for all students
- Maximum return on investment of school media centers and collaborative opportunities for all staff

