



MCAS READING SCORES (ENGLISH LANGUAGE ART-ELA) FOR GRADES 3 THROUGH 10 CONTINUE A THREE-YEAR DOWNWARD TREND.

YEARS OF RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT GOOD SCHOOL LIBRARIES, ONES WITH LICENSED SCHOOL LIBRARY TEACHERS, LEAD TO GREATER STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IS THE NEWEST TECHNOLOGY, BUT IT WON'T BE THE LAST.

SCHOOL LIBRARY TEACHERS ARE UNIQUELY EQUIPPED TO RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING WITH AI, FROM THE ETHICS BEHIND ITS USE, TO INSTRUCTION AND IMPACT OF USE, AS WELL AS THE DETECTION OF AI IN ASSIGNMENTS AND COURSEWORK.

## THE TOP 5 REASONS FOR HAVING A LICENSED SCHOOL LIBRARY TEACHER IN EVERY SCHOOL

RESEARCH SKILLS AND THE ABILITY TO IDENTIFY

MISINFORMATION ONLINE ARE CRITICAL IN TODAY'S WORLD.

LICENSED SCHOOL LIBRARY TEACHERS TEACH RESEARCH SKILLS, CRITICAL THINKING AND THE IMPORTANCE OF LOOKING AT THE CONTEXT OF INFORMATION. THEY DEVELOP LIBRARY CURRICULUM AND PROGRAMMING THAT HELPS STUDENTS NAVIGATE DIGITAL PRIVACY AND SOCIAL MEDIA.

FROM 2019 LIBRARY USER AND NON-USER SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS  
[HTTPS://DOCS.GOOGLE.COM/DOCUMENT/D/1SVG5EQGROUSJL14YCPPBIMNOUDNVWYYASU1IR\\_Q402E/EDIT](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1svG5EQGROUSJL14YCPPBIMNOUDNVWYYASU1IR_Q402E/EDIT)

IN MASSACHUSETTS, STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS THAT HAVE LICENSED SCHOOL LIBRARY TEACHERS HAVE MORE ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES. YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT THIS IN THE NEXT SLIDE. IT'S VERY EXCITING!

ATTEMPTS TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO BOOKS AND BOOK CHALLENGES ARE HAPPENING AT A RECORD NUMBER IN MASSACHUSETTS.

LICENSED SCHOOL LIBRARY TEACHERS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A MASTER'S DEGREE IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE OR AN MASTERS OF EDUCATION IN LIBRARY MEDIA. THEY WORK WITH EDUCATORS TO CURATE COLLECTIONS THAT SUPPORT CURRICULUM, PROVIDE DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES, AND GIVE STUDENTS ACCESS TO EXPERIENCES THAT ARE DIFFERENT FROM THEIR OWN.

# WHAT ARE LIBRARIANS WORTH?

## “OVERDRIVE K-12 SHARED SORA COLLECTION (COMMONWEALTH EBOOK COLLECTIONS):

Collection, consisting of 250,000+ eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines across all genres and formats aimed at a K-12 audience. The estimated cost for a school to recreate **this collection on its own would exceed \$500,000.**

## ONLINE CONTENT AND DATABASES

MLS supplies access, customized library links, training, and support for hundreds of online magazines, journals, and newspapers. The average retail value for a library to purchase these **services on its own would exceed \$60,000.**

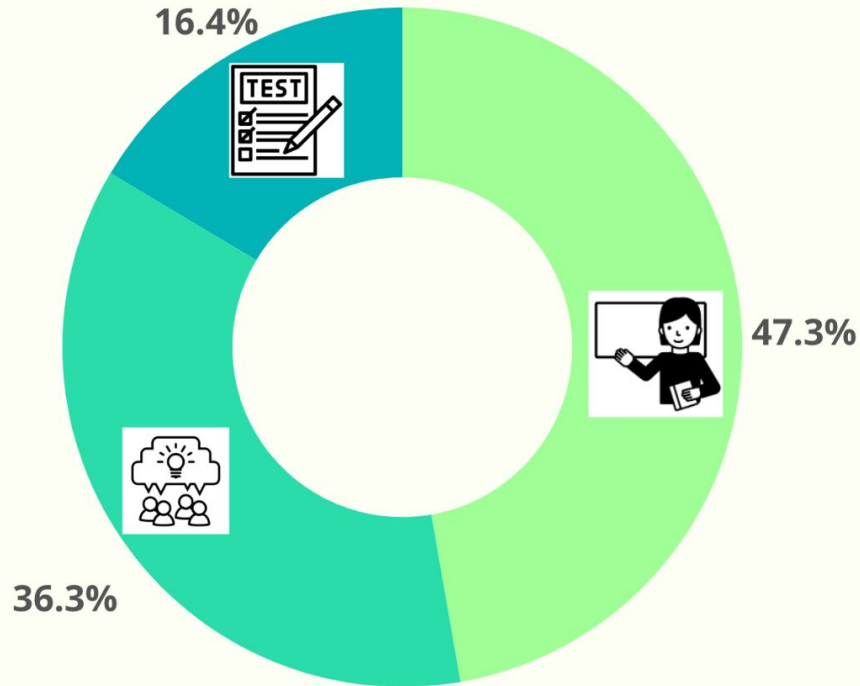
## GROUP-PURCHASING COOPERATIVE

This service provides members with **\$13.5 million\*** in annual savings on books and other library necessities.

\*Sadly, that is not per library.

Provided by Mass. Library Systems to schools with licensed library teachers.

# Library “Sign-Up” Uses



## Focused Learning

Classes come to learn new content. LMS co-teaches with classroom teacher.



## Collaboration Space

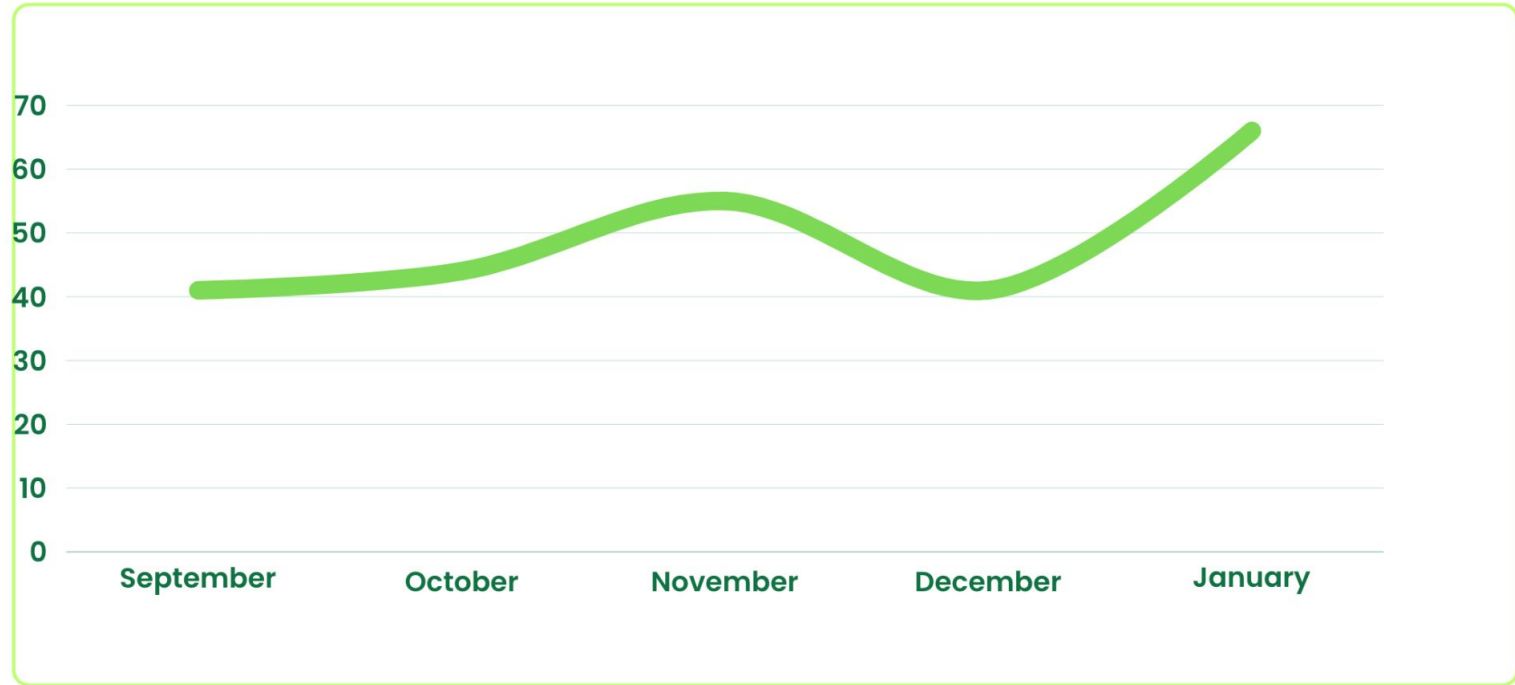
Students come to use the space and resources collaboratively during class time.



## Testing

Library is used for standardized testing.

# Therapy/Testing Room Use

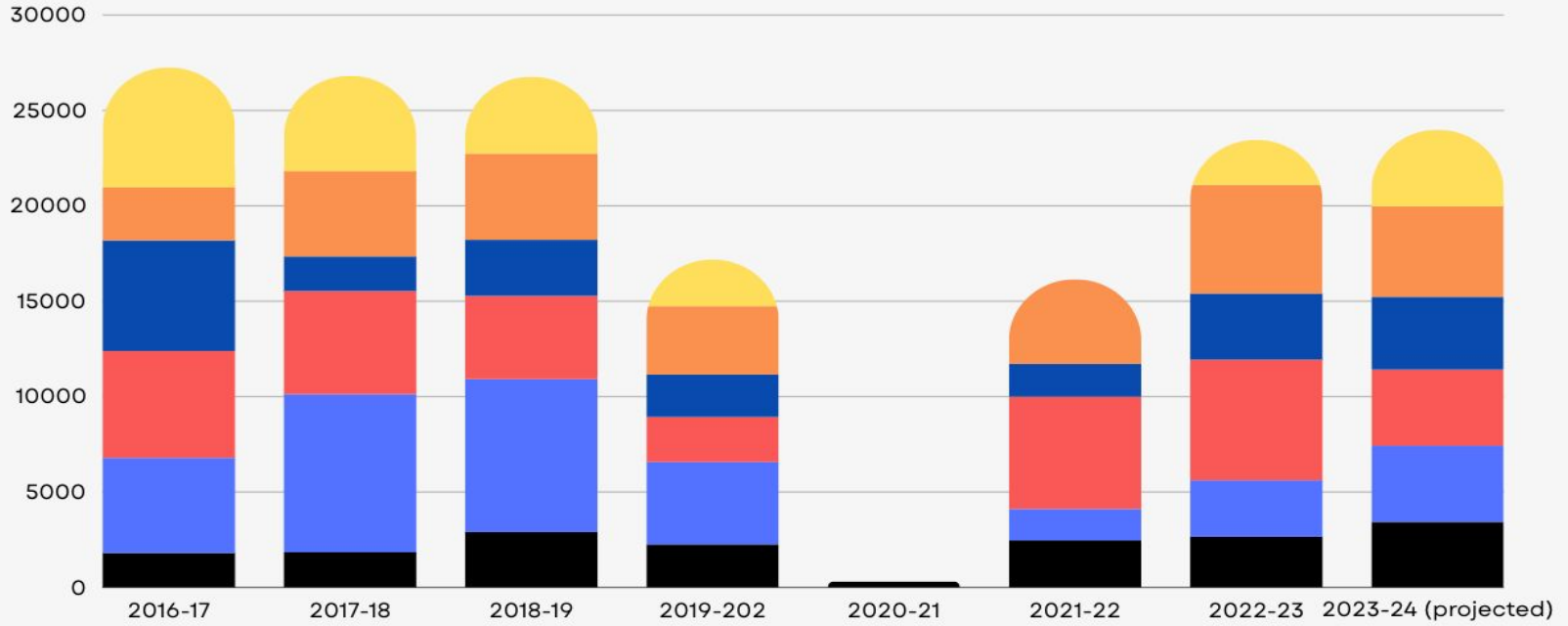


# Self-Selecting Students

DAILY AVERAGES

SEPTEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024





**Middle School**

**A Elementary**

**B Elementary**

**C Elementary**

**D Elementary**

**E Elementary**

# Bill S.2528 & Bill H.4229

Provides protection for school districts through strong selection and reconsideration policies.

## An Act regarding free expression

Representative John Francis Moran  
& Senator Julian Cyr





# Book Bans in Massachusetts

## Are...

- Coordinated efforts
- Politically motivated by far-right conservatives
- Well-funded and resourced

## Are **NOT** Driven by...

- Concerned parents who have legit questions
- Diverse families with differing values

# Books Challenged: Reported to MSLA 22-23

*Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

*All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson (3)

*Beyond Magenta* by Susan Kuklin (2)

*Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison

*Felix Ever After* by Kacen Callender

*Flamer* by Mike Curato (3)

*Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe (2)

*Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

*Lawn Boy* by Jonathan Evison

*Let's Talk About It* by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan

*Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness* by Anastasia Higginbotham

*Out of Darkness* by Ashley Hope Pérez

*Push* by Sapphire

*This Book Is Gay* by Juno Dawson (3)

# American Library Association

## Top 13

## Most Challenged Books, 2022

# TOP 13 MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2022

The American Library Association tracked **1,269 challenges** to library, school, and university materials and services in 2022. Of the **2,571 unique titles** that were challenged or banned in 2022, here are the top 13 most challenged.



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**GENDER QUEER**  
by Maia Kobabe  
**REASONS:** LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit
- 

**ALL BOYS AREN'T BLUE**  
by George M. Johnson  
**REASONS:** LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit
- 

**THE BLUEST EYE**  
by Toni Morrison  
**REASONS:** rape, incest, claimed to be sexually explicit, EDI content
- 

**FLAMER**  
by Mike Curato  
**REASONS:** LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit
- 

**LOOKING FOR ALASKA**  
by John Green  
**REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content
- 

**THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER**  
by Stephen Chbosky  
**REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content, rape, drugs, profanity
- 

**LAWN BOY**  
by Jonathan Evison  
**REASONS:** LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit
- 

**THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN**  
by Sherman Alexie  
**REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, profanity
- 

**OUT OF DARKNESS**  
by Ashley Hope Perez  
**REASON:** claimed to be sexually explicit
- 

**A COURT OF MIST AND FURY**  
by Sarah J. Maas  
**REASON:** claimed to be sexually explicit
- 

**CRANK**  
by Ellen Hopkins  
**REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, drugs
- 

**ME + EARL + THE DYING GIRL**  
by Jesse Andrews  
**REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, profanity
- 

**THIS BOOK IS GAY**  
by Juno Dawson  
**REASONS:** LGBTQIA+ content, sex education, claimed to be sexually explicit

# Challenges: Just the beginning

- Attacking curriculum
- Harassment
- Bomb threats
- Bad policies
- 'Adverse legislation'
- Loss of work and jobs
- Police investigations

# Best Defense:

## A Quality Collection Development Policy

- School Committee Approved
- Policy Reference Manual
  - IJL - Section I, Files IJ, IJ-R, IJL, IJLA -
    - materials, libraries, and/or reconsideration
- MSLA Policy PD Resource

# Importance of School Library Programs: Defined

- ❑ Licensed School Library Teacher
  - ❑ Qualified leader and advocate within the school and district
  - ❑ Possesses knowledge in instructional strategies, pedagogy and supporting all learners
  - ❑ Competent selecting materials reflecting student learning needs & population
- ❑ Support Personnel
- ❑ Up to date technologies, books, materials for students & learning equipment
- ❑ Regular collaboration and co-teaching between the LSLT & teachers
  - ❑ Grounded in the standards that require research, reading, and information, digital, media and computer/technology literacies.
- ❑ Space: nurturing, safe, promotes reading & encourages discovery & curiosity
- ❑ Creative programming for students & staff
- ❑ School committee approved Collection Development Policy

# Importance of School Library Programs

- ❑ Licensed School Library Teachers → Positive/ increased reading outcomes.
  - ❑ Research studies since 2003
  - ❑ Increased reading increases student achievement.
  - ❑ Reduces Opportunity Gap (Darling Hammond)
- ❑ Licenced School Library Teacher → Direct access to MA State funded resources
  - ❑ Subscription Databases w/ Instruction
  - ❑ Pebblego, SORA, Transparent Language
  - ❑ Grants
- ❑ School Library Programs → Strives for equity in learning (MA DESE, 2018)
  - ❑ Resources-All Students have access
  - ❑ Support all Instruction: Individual, Groups, Professional
- ❑ Policy Guidance → Records and Reasoning for Choices

# Who is responsible for educating kids about:

- Digital literacy / online behavior / digital footprints
- Artificial Intelligence
- Copyright, plagiarism, and citing sources
- Evaluating information
- Mis- / dis- / mal-information
- Appropriate use of technology
- The joy of choosing personal reading material for entertainment

**Licensed school library teachers do all this, and more!**



# Equity

- ❑ Lack of Library Equity in Massachusetts Schools (MA; DESE; MSLA, 2018)
  - ❑ Not all Massachusetts...
    - ❑ students have school libraries
    - ❑ school libraries have licensed school library teachers (who offer instruction)
    - ❑ school libraries are adequately funded
    - ❑ school libraries have technology to both support students and staff, and manage materials.
- ❑ Accountability
  - ❑ DESE: Licensed School Library Teachers: No Strong State Count
    - ❑ Wealthy suburban districts are far more likely to have licensed school library teachers than urban or rural districts



# Better Together

April 11, 2024 | MassCUE  
CES CSTA MASCD METAA & MSLA

## AI: Impact on Education

Virtual Panel Discussion

April 11, 2024

7:00–8:30pm



On April 11, 2024, MassCUE is hosting a virtual panel discussion on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in partnership with CES, CSTA, MASCD, METAA and MSLA. The purpose of this event is to generate productive conversation about AI in education and elevate the work that is happening in educational settings across Massachusetts.



## Further reading:

ALA's Committee on Library Advocacy[2021] Students Reach Greater Heights with School Librarians. ALA.  
<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/sites/ala.org.advocacy/files/content/stateandlocal/School%20Librarians%20v2.pdf>

Froggatt, D. [2015] The Informationally Underserved: Not Always Diverse, but Always a Social Justice Advocacy Model. *School Libraries Worldwide*, 21:1.  
<https://newbedfordlight.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Froggatt-IU-School-Libs-WW.pdf>

Gordon, C. and R. Cicchetti. [2018]. Report of Findings and Recommendations of the Special Commission on School Library Services in Massachusetts.  
<https://mblc.state.ma.us/programs-and-support/youth-services/school-libraries-study.php>

Huisman, R. [2015] Library As Place in Urban High Schools: Connecting College Readiness to Librarian Intervention and Community Partnerships. American Library Association.  
<https://alair.ala.org/bitstream/handle/11213/17880/LibraryAsPlaceUrbanHighSchools.pdf?sequence=1>

Merga, M. [2021]. Libraries as Well Being Supportive Spaces in Contemporary Schools. *Journal of Library Administration*.  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01930826.2021.1947056>

Mezick, E. [2007]. Return on Investment: Libraries and Student Retention. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship* 33:5, Sept. 2007, pp 561-566  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0099133307001243>

# Questions?

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