

## Sample Letter to the Editor

Edit and submit this letter to the editor of the editorial or op-ed page of your daily newspaper. Check to see whether the paper accepts e-mail or fax submissions and be sure to follow up once you send the letter.

Go to [fundourfuturewashington.org](http://fundourfuturewashington.org) (LINK) to see real life examples that were printed.

Dear Editor:

Across the state of Washington, school librarians and library support staff are being reduced or eliminated as a cost saving measure to school districts that face diminishing funding.

This is happening despite the fact that numerous research studies (in 15 states and 1 Canadian Province) have shown a high correlation between strong school library programs led by a certified school librarian and student achievement on state standardized tests.

School libraries are an absolutely essential part of every school community and academic program.

Teacher librarians instruct students and provide the school community ongoing experiences in accessing, evaluating, and utilizing a wide range of information sources.

Teacher librarians collaborate with teachers for optimal instructional design to improve student achievement.

School library programs and personnel teach and support reading literacy, technology literacy, and information literacy – all of which are crucial for success in college, work, and life.

School library programs are an equalizing force; by providing the technology, materials and training that will lessen the gap between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots', between the information rich and the information poor, school libraries are a means of providing equity for all.

It is time for Washington state to provide adequate and sustained funding for school libraries. I urge everyone in [your community] to

1. sign the online petition in support of fully-funding Washington school libraries ( HYPERLINK "http://gopetition.com/online/15285.html" <http://gopetition.com/online/15285.html>)
2. take 2 minutes to call the capitol hotline (1-800-562-6000) and ask your legislator to support the legislation for school library funding; your request will go to your two representatives, your senator and the Governor.
3. talk to others in the community about this issue and urge them to join the growing number of Washington citizens calling for change.

Washington's public schools must graduate students who are information literate, technologically savvy, and impassioned skillful readers. This can not be achieved if our school libraries continue to languish. Join [fundourfuturewashington.org](http://fundourfuturewashington.org) to connect with 1000's state-wide who share your vision that this matters and we can help turn school library funding into law in the state of Washington.

Sincerely,  
(Name, title, daytime phone number)