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Fact Sheet:

Legislation Governing School Library Programs in Massachusetts

Legislation governing the administration, staffing, and funding of school library programs exists in Chapter 15 of Massachusetts General Law

This legislation charges the Board of Education with:

- Establishing a formula for funding school library programs to guide local school committees
- Establishing minimum standards for school library personnel
- Establishing minimum standards for the acquisition of print and nonprint materials for school libraries

This legislation predates the passage of Chapter 70, which does not include any mention of school library programs. MSLA believes that this omission was an unintentional oversight in the drafting of Chapter 70, and we would like to see this rectified by the passage of H564. However, MSLA understands that the legislation governing school library programs is the law. It is our hope that the Massachusetts Board of Education will adhere to this legislation and set specific guidelines for the staffing, collection and programs for Massachusetts' school libraries.

CHAPTER 15. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Chapter 15: Section 1R. School library and nonprint media services; funding

Section 1R. The board of education shall provide for the establishment of school library and nonprint media services, including:

- (1) the acquisition or rental of library and nonprint media materials, resources, and appropriate equipment.
- (2) supplementary library and nonprint media subprofessional personnel.
- (3) consultative services.

Funds as may be appropriated shall be disbursed according to a formula established by the board which shall take into account the average expenditure over the immediately preceding five years by the local school committee for the library and nonprint media resources; the ratio of library and nonprint media center professional staff to pupil enrollment; the per pupil expenditures for said staff; and the current year school committee expenditure for library and nonprint media resources.

In certifying school library and nonprint media programs eligible for aid, the board shall establish minimum standards for personnel, accessibility of resources, appropriateness of library and nonprint media services and the local budget support.