

Frequently Asked Questions about Library Media



1. What are the statutory (legal) requirements for school libraries in Kentucky?

The following statutes and regulations guide library media programs in Kentucky (summarized below). Click hyperlinks to access full statute or regulation.

[KRS 158.102](#) requires the employment of a certified school media librarian to be assigned to each school to organize, equip, and manage the operations of the school library. With school council consent, the librarian may be assigned to two or more schools.

[KRS 158.791](#) requires each elementary school to provide high quality library media programs. “High quality” is defined in *Beyond Proficiency @ your library* (KDE’s guidelines for effective school library media programs).

[KRS 161.044](#) requires that a non-instructional teacher’s aide assisting the school librarian must work under the direct supervision of the teaching staff in performing non-instructional duties.

[KRS 161.010](#) requires a teacher’s aide assisting the school librarian work under the direction of the certified staff but not teach classes.

[KRS 160.345](#) requires the school council consult the certified school media librarian regarding the maintenance of the library.

[16 KAR 2:130](#) provides guidance in a situation where a certified school librarian is not available to fill a position. These state regulations include the pursuance of a library certificate by the certified teacher employed in the position.

2. What are the official guidelines from the Kentucky Department of Education for effective school library media programs?

Beyond Proficiency @ your library is the web-based resource that provides guidance for developing high-quality library media programs in Kentucky schools. The Kentucky Department of Education introduced *Beyond Proficiency @ your library* in 2010 as a revision of a previous resource originally published by KDE in 2001. The following components comprise the resource (click hyperlinks to access):

- *Beyond Proficiency @ your library* [introduction](#)
- [Library Media Program Rubric](#) (to guide schools in evaluating their library program)
- [Characteristics of Highly Effective Teaching and Learning in the Library](#)
- PGES/OPGES [Framework for Library Media Specialists](#)
- K-12 [Library Media Standards](#) for students in Kentucky (adopted from AASL in 2009)
- *Beyond Proficiency @ your library* [website](#)

3. What is the recommended type of schedule for school libraries?

The Kentucky Department of Education (in its publication [Beyond Proficiency @ your library](#)) recommends that all school libraries operate on a flexible (or open) schedule. A flexible library schedule means that the librarian does not teach classes on a regular (or rigid) schedule. A flexible schedule for the library means that the library media center is available throughout the school day for classes, small groups, and individuals to work on projects, conduct research, attend meetings, find resources, etc. It also means the **library media specialist** is available at the point of need to assist those individuals and groups, including co-teaching with other certified staff. (See Kentucky's "[Library Media Program Rubric](#)," p. 5)

4. What is the recommended budget for a school library?

The Kentucky Department of Education (in its publication [Beyond Proficiency @ your library](#)) recommends that schools and/or districts allocate a minimum of \$15 per student to the library budget each year. (See Kentucky's "[Library Media Program Rubric](#)," p. 5)

5. What is the recommended staffing for a school library?

The Kentucky Department of Education (in its publication [Beyond Proficiency @ your library](#)) recommends the following staffing for school libraries, based on school enrollment numbers. (See Kentucky's "[Library Media Program Rubric](#)," p. 4)

- Under 200: 1 full-time certified librarian
- 200-500: 1 full-time certified librarian; .5 clerk
- 501-800: 1 full-time certified librarian; 1 clerk
- 801-1200: 1 full-time certified librarian; 1.5 clerk
- 1201-1600: 1.5 certified librarians; 1.5 clerk
- 1601-2000: 2 full-time certified librarians; 2 clerks

6. Does Kentucky have library media standards for students?

The Kentucky Department of Education adopted the *Standards for the 21st Century Learner* from the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) in 2009 and introduced them for implementation in all grades in 2010.

[Standards for the 21st Century Learner](#)

7. Does Kentucky have a state required evaluation tool for school librarians?

Kentucky school districts evaluate school librarians using the state's Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES). All librarians fit into the category of "Other Professionals" and utilize the resources and guidance designated for the Other Professionals Growth and Effectiveness System (OPGES) – a part of PGES.

[OPGES Web page](#)

[Framework for Library Media Specialists](#)

For questions about the following topics, please visit the Library Media section of the KDE website or click the hyperlinks below to go directly to specific Web pages.

<u>Beyond Proficiency @ your library</u>	<u>Library Media Professional Organizations</u>
<u>Certification in Kentucky</u>	<u>Library Media Program Research</u>
<u>Citation and Plagiarism</u>	<u>Online Discussion Lists of Interest</u>
<u>Collection Development</u>	<u>Reading Programs</u>
<u>Copyright Issues</u>	<u>Summer Reading</u>
<u>Flexible Scheduling</u>	<u>Web Resources</u>
<u>Kentucky School Library Media News</u> (quarterly newsletter)	<u>Other Professionals Growth and Effectiveness System (OPGES)</u>