

# SCHOOL LIBRARIES = STUDENT SUCCESS



School libraries and trained library staff are a critical part of helping students succeed and achieving Ontario's curriculum objectives for literacy, research and other critical skills.



Students and schools with access to school libraries and trained library staff see better outcomes on the Grade 3 and 6 EQAO assessments.<sup>1</sup>



Over the past two decades, hundreds of thousands of students across Ontario have lost access to school libraries – with the impact of the pandemic and recovery has accelerated this alarming trend.

**1/3** of school boards reported **spending less** than the provincial per-student funding formula for school libraries and library staff in 2021-22.<sup>2</sup>

Since then, many of Ontario's largest school boards have made dramatic reductions to school libraries and library staff affecting hundreds of thousands of students.

Now, the Ontario government has changed the way schools are funded, **eliminating protected funding for school libraries and library staff** and making it easier for school boards to reduce or eliminate school libraries and the essential staff that keep them running.



Help us Save Ontario's School Libraries.

Get Involved at: [www.accessola.com/save-our-school-libraries](http://www.accessola.com/save-our-school-libraries)

<sup>1</sup> People for Education & Queen's University Faculty of Education. School Libraries and Student Achievement in Ontario. Toronto: Ontario Library Association, 2006

<sup>2</sup> Financial Statements - Board Submitted, 2021-22. (2023). [EFIS 2021-22 Financial Statements - Board Submitted](#). Ontario Data Catalog.

# School Libraries Are Much More Than Books

School libraries are much more than books; they're constantly evolving to meet the needs of the students, giving students hands-on opportunities to exciting new technologies and skills that drive student achievement and develop career skills.



## Technology

- School libraries provide access to computers, high-speed Internet and other technological resources for all students, especially those who live in rural areas or don't have reliable online access at home.
- School libraries give students access to powerful tools and technologies, fostering creativity while honing critical STEM skills.



## Wellbeing

- School libraries are integral to supporting student wellbeing and a necessary reprieve from the structure of the classroom.
- They provide inclusive spaces where students can find mental health support and a supportive environment, as well as encourage healing through reading and pursuing their passions.<sup>3</sup>



## Skills Development

- Trained library staff guide students to hone their research skills, critical thinking, and digital literacy to become independent learners – important skills for success in college, university or skilled trades education.
- School libraries provide constructive, safe environments where students can explore and develop powerful skills, like coding, robotics and AI.



## Joy of Reading

- The school library is the one place in the school where students can find what really interests them and develop a love of reading. A genuine interest in reading helps build literacy skills that are foundational for all subject areas.

<sup>3</sup> Merga, Margaret K. *School Libraries Supporting Literacy and Wellbeing*. London: Facet Publishing, 2022