

## INSTRUCTION: School Libraries

Relationships of Media Specialists or Librarians to the School Facility

In response to the expanded concept of learning -- a concept which encompasses individualized learning, a multi-sensory approach to learning -- the school library of today is developing into a media center which supplements, extends, and enriches classroom teaching and student learning interests by providing a variety of print and non-print materials and the techniques and equipment to use them.

The media center concept requires a broadened role for the school librarian -- the school media specialist who, in this expanded role, provides a variety of professional services in addition to teaching library skills and providing literature enrichment.

For optimum learning, media specialists must participate with classroom teachers, special teachers, and administrators in cooperative planning. Conferences should be arranged to plan the flexible use of time, space, materials, and personnel in utilizing the services of the media center.

Learning activities utilizing the media center should be based clearly upon the curriculum and upon individual pupil's needs and interests. Library skills are to be taught when a need for their mastery has been demonstrated. These skills are often taught, not in isolation in rigidly prescribed library periods, but at flexibly scheduled times within the context of the curriculum.

The purpose and nature of a specific learning activity will determine whether the classroom teacher needs to be present in the media center or in the library if the school has not yet developed a media center. There may be times when the teacher alone can supervise his pupils' activities in the media center, thus allowing the media specialist or librarian time to work with other teachers and pupil groups requiring his services. Similarly, the nature of the activity will determine the length and frequency of media center utilization by classes, groups, and individual pupils.

The most productive use of the media center and of the supportive services of the media specialist requires an ongoing partnership between teachers, school administrators, and the specialist.

Rule  
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Superintendent of Schools