

New Abbott Regulations Expand Commitment to School Libraries

The new Abbott district regulations for 2005-06 were filed with the Office of Administrative Law last week and are now effective. These regulations expand the state's commitment to school libraries/certified SLMS in all Abbott school districts. Specifically, the regulations require:

- all K-3 schools to have a school library media center staffed by a certified school library media specialist and supplied with books that enrich classroom instruction, computers with Internet access, and adequate space and facilities for student and teacher use
- all schools grades 4-12 to have a school library media center staff by certified SLMS, with computers, appropriate books, and supplemental materials.

Last year's regulations had eliminated the requirement for a library and certified SLMS in grades K-3, and early drafts of these regulations did not require any libraries to be staffed by a certified school library media specialist. NJASL lobbied for changes in the regulations, and we were successful in restoring these important requirements. The full text of the regulations is available online at <http://www.nj.gov/njded/code/current/title6a/chap10a.pdf>. The pertinent references to K-3 and 4-12 requirements are on p. 54 and 57. The specific citation is NJAC 6A:10-3.1 (e) 7 and (f) 3. This is great news for school librarians, and for Abbott districts and their students. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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