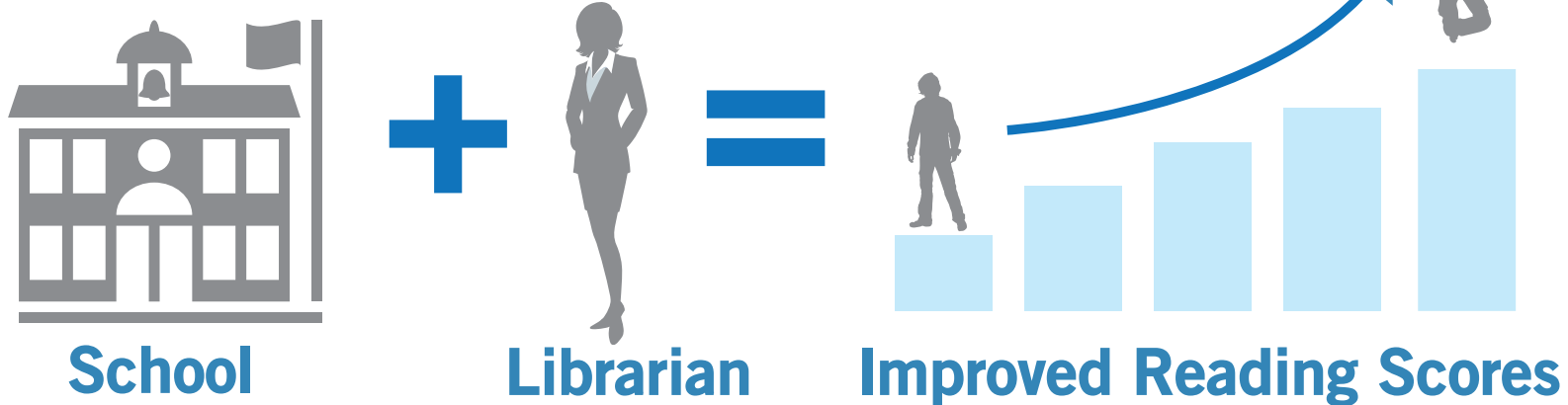


# School Libraries & Student Achievement

## School Librarians are Linked to Improved Standardized Reading Test Scores

Studies conducted over the past two decades, both in Colorado and nationwide, show that **students in schools with endorsed librarians score better on standardized achievement tests in reading**, compared with students in schools without endorsed librarians.



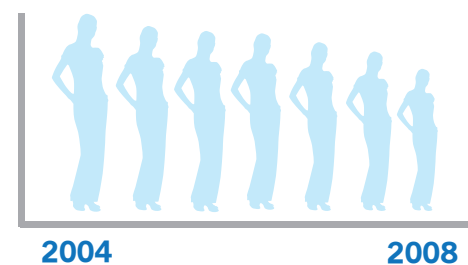
This increase in scores exists regardless of:

### Student Poverty Level<sup>1</sup>



In a Colorado study, the presence of school librarians positively impacted students' standardized reading scores even **when controlling for student poverty** (free and reduced-cost meal status).

### Overall Staffing Losses<sup>2</sup>



In a national study, **even if schools had overall staff declines between 2004 and 2008, students' standardized reading scores were better in schools that maintained or gained a librarian during this time period.**

## What other school library characteristics are associated with better test scores?

### School Librarians Teaching Information Literacy Skills to Students<sup>3</sup>



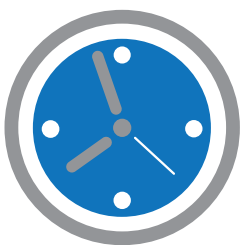
### Staffed by Endorsed Librarian<sup>1</sup>



### Collaborative Planning Between School Librarians & Teachers<sup>3, 4</sup>



### Extended Library & Staff Hours<sup>3</sup>



### School Librarians Providing In-Service Training to Teachers<sup>3</sup>



### Larger & Newer Collections<sup>3, 4, 5</sup>



### More Student Visits<sup>5</sup>



### Flexible Scheduling<sup>3</sup>



### Higher Expenditures<sup>3, 4, 5</sup>



See [www.lrs.org/data-tools/school-libraries/impact-studies/](http://www.lrs.org/data-tools/school-libraries/impact-studies/) for a list of school library impact studies.

1. Lance, K. C., & Hofschire, L. (2012). *Change in school librarian staffing linked with change in CSAP reading performance, 2005 to 2011*. Retrieved from [http://www.lrs.org/documents/closer\\_look/CO4\\_2012\\_Closer\\_Look\\_Report.pdf](http://www.lrs.org/documents/closer_look/CO4_2012_Closer_Look_Report.pdf)  
 2. Lance, K.C., & Hofschire, L. (2011, September 1). Something to shout about: New research shows that more librarians means higher reading scores. *School Library Journal*. Retrieved from [http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/printissue/currentissue/891612-427/something\\_to\\_shout\\_about\\_new.html.csp](http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/printissue/currentissue/891612-427/something_to_shout_about_new.html.csp)  
 3. Lance, K. C. (2000). *How school librarians help kids achieve standards: The second Colorado study*. Salt Lake City: Hi Willow Research and Publishing.  
 4. Lance, K. C. (1993). *The impact of school library media centers on academic achievement*. Salt Lake City: Hi Willow Research and Publishing.  
 5. Francis, H.B., Lance, C. K., & Lietzau Z. (2010). *School librarians continue to help students achieve standards: The third Colorado study (2010)*. Retrieved from: [http://www.lrs.org/documents/closer\\_look/CO3\\_2010\\_Closer\\_Look\\_Report.pdf](http://www.lrs.org/documents/closer_look/CO3_2010_Closer_Look_Report.pdf)