

Thank you madam chair and members of the committee

Hi my name is Paula Hansen and I am currently a middle school media specialist in Lakeville public schools.

This is my 30th year as a licensed Media Specialist. I have served as both President and Legislative chair of ITEM which is (Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota). The role of the Licensed media specialist has been at the front lines of school successes during this pandemic. Media specialists provided technology training and support for teachers as they waded through the new challenges of teaching from home. We supported both students and teachers by locating and curating online resources and information needed during the various learning models. We continued teaching students about digital literacy and personal security as they accessed and learned from a variety of digital resources. Many have been providing safe curbside pick up for students who need print resources such as textbooks, english class novels and library books. Thankfully, Lakeville students had the advantage of a Licensed Media Specialist to help them navigate through the plethora of changes and resources needed during this terribly stressful year.

*This definition for school libraries and media centers will help ensure consistent expectations around the state. When a family hears their school of choice has a Media Center, they can be assured their children have access to a well tailored print and digital collection of carefully curated selection of resources, technology tools for learning, broadband internet access and a Licensed School Library media specialist who could help students find that information.

By adding this definition, we are hopeful it would lead to a greater understanding of what truly MAKES a school library. Along with a great collection of print and digital resources school library media specialists have the knowledge to assist teachers in finding valuable resources to support the curriculum. They can work together to help students develop the skills needed to identify credible sources along with helping students develop a lifelong love of reading.

Thank you madam chair and committee members for allowing me the opportunity to talk to you

“AASL has defined the components of an effective school library program that will truly help students succeed,” said Church. “Children who experience effective school library programs in the K-12 environment perform better in school and are better equipped for college, career and community.”