Illinois Heartland Library System

Illinois Heartland Library System
Resolution No. 2027– 01

Whereas, strong school libraries are essential to student learning, literacy, inquiry, research, and the development of information and technology literacy; and

Whereas, school libraries provide students with access to diverse resources, opportunities to develop a love of reading, and guidance in locating, evaluating, creating, and responsibly using information; and

Whereas, Illinois recognizes school library media services as an essential component of a school district's educational program and requires school districts to provide library media services to students; and

Whereas, licensed school librarians and other qualified library professionals bring specialized knowledge of children's and young adult literature, information literacy, research, technology, collection development, and instructional collaboration that strengthens the educational mission of schools; and

Whereas, effective school library programs are most successful when school librarians are recognized as instructional partners who collaborate with classroom educators, administrators, families, and community organizations to support student achievement and lifelong learning; and

Whereas, equitable access to well-supported school libraries and qualified library professionals is particularly important for students in rural, economically disadvantaged, and underserved communities; and

Whereas, school libraries and public libraries share a commitment to literacy, lifelong learning, intellectual freedom, and equitable access to information, and strong partnerships between school and public libraries benefit students, families, and communities; and

Whereas, Illinois provides funding and other support for qualified school library programs through the School District Library Grant Program, recognizing the important role school libraries play in serving Illinois students;

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Therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Directors of the **Illinois Heartland Library System** supports strong, sustainable school library programs and the employment and professional development of **licensed school librarians and other appropriately qualified school library personnel**, and encourages Illinois school districts to provide adequate resources, staffing, and instructional support for school libraries and to recognize qualified school librarians as essential partners in student learning; and further, that the Illinois Heartland Library System will continue to support school libraries and their personnel through professional development, networking, resources, advocacy, and collaboration.

Passed by the board of directors of the Illinois Heartland Library System, of Madison County, State of Illinois, this 22nd day of September 2026.

Kristy Walker

President, Illinois Heartland Library Board

(Attest)

Nick Norovich

Secretary