

The Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries hereby resolves our support for the critical role of libraries and librarians in K-12 education in Vermont and strenuously opposes the proposal made by the Education Quality Standards Commission, appointed by the State Board of Education, to remove all instances of the words “library,” “librarian,” and “library-media specialist” from the Vermont Education Quality Standards¹; and

Whereas, the Vermont Agency of Education has stated that Common Core State Standards mean that “For Vermont students, college will not begin with remediation as students will be prepared for college-level coursework”² and academic librarians are uniquely qualified to attest to the numerous limitations and disadvantages students with limited experience in library research and information inquiry skills will encounter when entering higher education; and

Whereas, current research³ shows that the disparity of access to learning resources between affluent and poor students has created a knowledge gap with serious implications for students’ economic prosperity and social mobility; and

Whereas, many research studies show empirically the positive correlation between school libraries and student academic achievement⁴; and

Whereas, the Pew Research Center reports that an overwhelming percentage of parents of young children, especially those with annual incomes under \$50,000, believe that libraries are “very important” for their children⁵; and

Whereas, the Vermont Agency of Education states, “Common Core State Standards...establish clear goals for learning that will prepare children for college and the workforce”⁶ and the research and information-fluency skills taught by school librarians and library-media specialists are crucial for Vermont students entering the 21st century workforce, higher education, and becoming effective participants in our democracy; and be it

Resolved that we, the members of the Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries, support the critical role of libraries and librarians in K-12 education in Vermont and strenuously oppose the proposal made by the Education Quality Standards Commission, appointed by the State Board of Education, to remove all instances of the words “library,” “librarian,” and “library-media specialist” from the Vermont Education Quality Standards.

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Approved September 12, 2013

¹ Education Quality Standards Commission (2013). *Education Quality Standards Commission Recommendations* http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-SBE_2013_06_25_Item_G_Side_by_Side.pdf Accessed September 9, 2013.

² Vermont Agency of Education. *What Do the Common Core State Standards Mean for Vermont?* http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-Eye_on_Assessment_FAQ_2013_06_24.pdf Accessed September 9, 2013.

³ Neuman, S., & Celano, D. (2012). *Giving Our Children a Fighting Chance: Poverty, Literacy, and the Development of Information Capital*. New York: Teachers College Press, Columbia University.

⁴ Library Research Service. (2013). School Libraries and Student Achievement. <http://www.lrs.org/data-tools/school-libraries/impact-studies/> Accessed September 9, 2013.

⁵ Miller, C., Zickuhr, K., Rainie, L., & Purcell, K. (2013). *Parents' and Children's Special Relationship with Reading and Libraries*. Washington, DC: Pew Research Center.

⁶ Vermont Agency of Education. (2013). Programs & Services: Common Core State Standards. http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum.html. Accessed September 9, 2013.