

Alaska's School Libraries = Student Success

Advocacy Talking Guide

Introduce Yourself

Hi, my name is _____ and I am from _____.

Thank you for meeting with me today, and for your past support of Alaska's students.
[be more specific if you can]

Say Thank You



Explain Your Purpose



I'm here today because I'm concerned about school libraries in Alaska. I'd like to share with you some information on why school libraries and school librarians are critical to Alaska's future.

Talking Points

Certified school librarians curate a diverse collection of books that meet the academic and personal needs of learners. They foster a lifelong love of reading and help connect families to literacy resources.

Reading



Collaboration



When school librarians collaborate with classroom teachers, student academic success and teacher self-efficacy increase.

School librarians help learners develop the skills employers are looking for through inquiry-based personalized learning including academic, technical, and soft skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, and perseverance.

Career Readiness



Safe Spaces



School libraries are sometimes the only space in a school that services all the users of the community. They provide a safe and inclusive environment for all learners; and foster community and family partnerships through library events and programs.

Certified school librarians provide instruction to learners and training to staff in the ethical use of information, evaluating information, and news literacy to ensure that all students become good digital citizens and stay safe online.

Digital Citizenship



Achievement Gap



School libraries bridge the digital and socioeconomic divides by ensuring that all students have access to information 24/7 through curated collections of print and online materials that learners can use in school and at home.

Share a personal story about your library that helps demonstrate one or more of the talking points you mentioned. If possible, tie that story to the values of the individual you are talking to.

Tell a Personal Story



End with Your Ask



1. Next time you are in _____, please take the time to stop by my library so you can see all the amazing things we do everyday to support learners.
2. When education is being discussed, please be a voice for school libraries.

Follow Up

A few days after your meeting, send a thank you note and, if relevant, an invitation to visit your library that specifies an event or opportunity they might wish to observe or participate in.