



# LOW HANGING FRUIT

## 3 Things Teachers Should Know About ESSA & the School Library

By Jeannie Standal

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law on December 15, 2015, and replaces No Child Left Behind effective July 1, 2017. There will be changes for all areas of our school, including school libraries. Depending on the school district's plan, there may be some ways classroom teachers and their students will benefit from ESSA's attention to school libraries:

### ESSA recognizes the crucial roll of an effective school library program in a child's education.

Did you know that there are [dozens of studies](#) that show students with access to a strong school library program are more likely to succeed academically than students who without that access, even when adjusted for other factors like poverty and language barriers?

### ESSA authorizes LEA's to spend Title I and Title II funds on supporting effective school library programs.

When schools invest in school libraries, creating larger, newer, and more varied collections, students have improved test scores. Moreover, school libraries bridge the income achievement gap by providing equal access to resources for learning, including broadband.

### ESSA Title II.B.2. (LEARN) authorizes funds to be used to provide time for school librarians and teachers to meet, plan and collaborate.

[Idaho's School Library Impact Survey of 2009](#), and scores of other studies, show that in schools where teachers see "librarians as instructional colleagues...students are more likely to excel academically."

Talk with the school librarian about library resources that can help teachers and students make this academic year better than ever!

"Resources that align with curriculum"

-AASL's 100 Things Kids Will Miss If they don't have a School Librarian in Their School

### LINKS TO MORE LEARNING



#### Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

A little light reading. The good news: the document is searchable. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114s1177enr/pdf/BILLS-114s1177enr.pdf>

#### Teacher Librarian Partnerships

Breaking the ice to begin a collaborative relationship can be hard without a great project. This article from Scholastic has a few ideas that might inspire collaborative projects at your school <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/teacher-librarian-partnerships>

#### One Great Example:

The Unquiet Librarian, Buffy Hamilton, is an experienced collaborator and blogs about her adventures with planning and executing projects with teachers in her unquiet school library. <https://theunquietlibrarian.wordpress.com/>

### PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



#### WebQuests Through the Library

One tool available to you is World Book Web. It's not just an online encyclopedia. World Book provides tools for classroom teachers. Click **For Educators** at the bottom of the World Book window to find **Educator Tools** like lesson plans, curriculum correlations, and webquests.

**Webquests** are available in a variety of subject areas. Each is in PDF format so it can be saved, printed, and distributed to students. The quests utilize World Book to answer questions about the topic building knowledge of the topic while also utilizing digital literacy skills.

### DIGITAL TOOLS



#### Praxis Prep in LearningExpress

Available through [www.LiLI.org](http://www.LiLI.org), use Learning Express Library for college and career preparation tools. Find a guide book and practice tests in **Prepare for an Occupation Exam** in the **Career Center**.

#### ERIC

Did you know that we have easy access to ERIC resources through [www.LiLI.org](http://www.LiLI.org)? Because LiLI connects ERIC to other databases, you might find more of the full text online versus using ERIC through other free sites.



