

## **Policy Area 1: Early Childhood Education**

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With the expansion of PreK programs throughout the state, library media specialists play a vital role in supporting teachers and students. Library Media Specialists provide opportunities for preschoolers to build pre literacy skills that support school readiness. Read-alouds develop early language and literacy abilities in young children. Library Media Specialists develop relationships with parents and caregivers that foster equitable access to books and resources to support literacy efforts at home.

## **Policy Area 2: High Quality and Diverse Teachers & Leaders**

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Library Media Specialists in Maryland are highly qualified educators that are required to hold a master's degree in library science, or its equivalent. They are dedicated to empowering students with digital and media literacies and building critical thinkers through rigorous research processes. They are leaders in their building that participate in committees, school improvement teams, and conducting professional learning for their staff. Over 40 Library Media Specialists in the state hold National Board certification.

## **Policy Area 3: College and Career Readiness**

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Library Media Specialists are teachers and instructional partners who provide instruction on the effective use of statewide resources to support student success. Their information literacy curriculum uses inquiry-based projects aligned with CCR standards. Through makerspaces and innovation spaces, school libraries facilitate opportunities for applied, experiential, and engaging learning.

## **Policy Area 4: More Resources for Student Success**

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Library Media Specialists use their expertise as information specialists to build a physical and digital library that provides high quality resources to ensure equity, accessibility, and diverse representations for all students and the school community. The library is the heart of the school, and the Media Specialist has a unique ability to bring together parents, caregivers, and community resources to advance student success.

## **Policy Area 5: Governance and Accountability**

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Library Media Specialists support the work of the Accountability and Implementation Board and the Expert Review Team Program by providing space in their libraries for the planning, evaluation, and implementation of a highly effective education program in their schools. Through their relationships with parents, caregivers, and community members, they can foster family engagements which is the foundation of successfully implementing the Maryland Blueprint for Student Success.