

LWVGTA Library Action Committee Report 2015/16

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After our successful investigation of public libraries in 2013-14, the Library Committee decided to turn its attention to school libraries this year. We last surveyed area school libraries in 2000 and much has changed since then.

Once again, we split up duties and contacted elementary, middle, and high school libraries in our three Co. area. We surveyed eleven public school districts, plus four charter schools. We rec'd 42 surveys back, an 82% return rate.

Our survey resulted in the following conclusions about the state of school libraries at this time:

- Professional Staff –
 1. High Schools – one-third were staffed by a library professional. The rest were staffed by para professions, computer specialists, or teachers. One school had no library at all.
 2. Middle Schools -- About one-half had an LMS (Library Media Specialist) supervising.
 3. Elementary – Only two school districts – TCAPS & Kalkaska had an LMS overseeing the libraries.
- Budget – All schools operated on \$10 to \$5 per pupil, or less. The exception was Woodland School which budgets \$70/student.
- Library Hours – One school library was open only on demand; 13 were open 20 hours or less/week; 18 libraries were open 30 hours or more/week. The remainder were somewhere in the middle.

A recent study by Northwestern Michigan College found that 26% of incoming students had never received any research instruction and 43% indicated they depended on Google for doing research.

The Library Committee thanks its members for assisting in the collection of data and will be revising its school library position for approval at the next annual meeting.

Submitted by Ann Swaney & Barbara Berry, May, 2016