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Resolution on Equity for All School Libraries

Whereas equity of access is one of five key action areas adopted by the American Library Association to fulfill its mission of providing the highest quality library and information services for all people;

Whereas the American Library Association values our nation's diversity and strives to reflect that diversity by providing a full spectrum of resources and services to everyone in the communities we serve (ALA Policy 53.9 Libraries: An American Value);

Whereas the American Library Association has recognized the role of school libraries and librarians in the academic success of K-12 students in its 2012 resolution, "School Libraries and Librarians Are Critical to Educational Success";

Whereas high-quality instructional materials for students and teachers, including print and digital learning materials, textbooks, and other materials, promote rigorous engagement with the curriculum;

Whereas school districts providing these resources should ensure that students have equitable access to them without regard to race, color, socioeconomic status, gender identity, national origin, or disability;

Whereas there is an inequity of resources in school libraries with a widening of gaps between collections in affluent districts versus those in lower-income areas;

staffing levels, collection size and range, and the instructional role of the librarian all have a direct impact on student achievement." (Gretes 2013, page 2).

Whereas The Every Student Succeeds Act, signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 10, 2015, includes provisions that specifically support school libraries, school librarians, and the role they play in academic achievement, literacy, and digital citizenship, and reflects our national commitment to providing educational opportunities to "every child, regardless of race, income, background, the zip code where they live";

