

Information Resources and Technology

In the past, a trained librarian/media specialist was required to assist students in the traditional library. Over time, resources have become available in many other ways and other places, especially through the Internet. Since students access the Internet all the time, it is easy to believe that they are accessing good quality resources on their own and accomplishing effective research. That is not always the case. Studies have shown that students still need to be taught how to use information resources and technology effectively to do quality research.

Teachers have also become very familiar locating information through electronic means, specifically on the Internet. However, many of them are not trained on how to teach students 1) good techniques for research, 2) how to discern appropriate sources, 3) proper citation of references, and 4) how to use more scholarly resources such as subscription-based databases often accessed through a library or media center. Training in these areas is required for a teacher or media specialist to be considered “trained staff” as listed in the rubric below.

This training may be accomplished through library/media specialist classes (college or graduate school level) or it may be through a more informal means similar to Continuing Education Units (CEUs). A particular degree is not required. A classroom teacher may assume this role if they have been trained in the four areas listed above. A classroom teacher simply directing his/her students to use the Internet is not sufficient to meet the “trained staff” criteria for compliance. To meet “compliance,” a staff member would need to have received formal or informal training in these areas and be available to assist both staff and students during the research process. Also required for “Compliance” is the criteria that “trained staff” are usually available to assist students. This indicates that staff and students can come in for help at various times when they need help and not just during the class period when students are with their teacher who made the assignment.

The “Exceeds Compliance” criteria will be met when a staff member has more formal training and can actually be categorized as a “Library/Media/Educational Technology Specialist.” This implies that the trained staff member’s qualifications are above that of a classroom teacher that is informally trained. He/she may have a degree or, at the least, college/graduate coursework in this area. This training would directly contribute to the first section which indicates that choices of information resources, such as the subscription databases the school has selected, would be clearly linked to the school’s instructional program. Finally, “Exceeds Compliance” describes this specialist as someone who is “readily available” to assist staff and students indicating that he/she is generally accessible, and likely devoted to this position for a significant portion of the day.

INDICATOR 5.11 (C)

Information resources are readily accessible to students and staff. Training for students and staff on the use of information resources is supported by specially trained staff.

1. NON COMPLIANCE

Access to information resources is not convenient or readily available to most of the students and staff.

OR no training is provided to students or staff on the use of information resources.

2. PARTIAL COMPLIANCE

Access to information resources is limited or only convenient for some of the students and staff.

Trained staff are occasionally available to assist students and staff with their research and support needs.

Limited professional development is available for trained staff.

3. COMPLIANCE

Information resources, including those beyond online search engines, are adequate for college prep coursework and are readily accessible by students and staff. (Adjust appropriately for schools with lower grades.)

Trained staff are usually available to assist staff and students with their research and support needs.

Schools with elementary grades incorporate library/media center skills into the curriculum.

Professional development for staff is provided as needed.

4. EXCEEDS COMPLIANCE

Information resources in a variety of media formats are plentiful, scholarly, easily accessible by students and staff, and are clearly linked to the instructional program.

Library/Media/Educ. Tech specialists are readily available to assist staff and students with their research and support needs.

Training on how to integrate information resources into instruction is available from specialists.

Professional development for specialists is well planned.