



Arlington Public Schools

Library Services

2015 Evaluation



Program Goals

- Provide **high quality materials**.
- Foster and **promote student love of reading**.
- Prepare students to **access information**.

Evaluation Findings - Program Strengths

- APS school **libraries offer a variety of programming**. Examples of popular library programming include:
 - family programs at the elementary level,
 - recreational reading and book club activities at the middle school level, and
 - author visits at the high school level.
- All libraries are **open beyond school hours**.
- All secondary schools and many elementary libraries are **open during lunch** but there is variation in the type of access students have.
- Students and staff report **high levels of satisfaction** with school libraries.
- The most popular student survey response: **would not change anything** about their school's library.
- Survey respondents are **positive about library staff** and the **welcoming environment** of the library.
- Observations of **student access** to and use of the library indicate **high levels of effectiveness** in most areas.

Full evaluation with appendices online
at www.apsva.us/evaluationreports.



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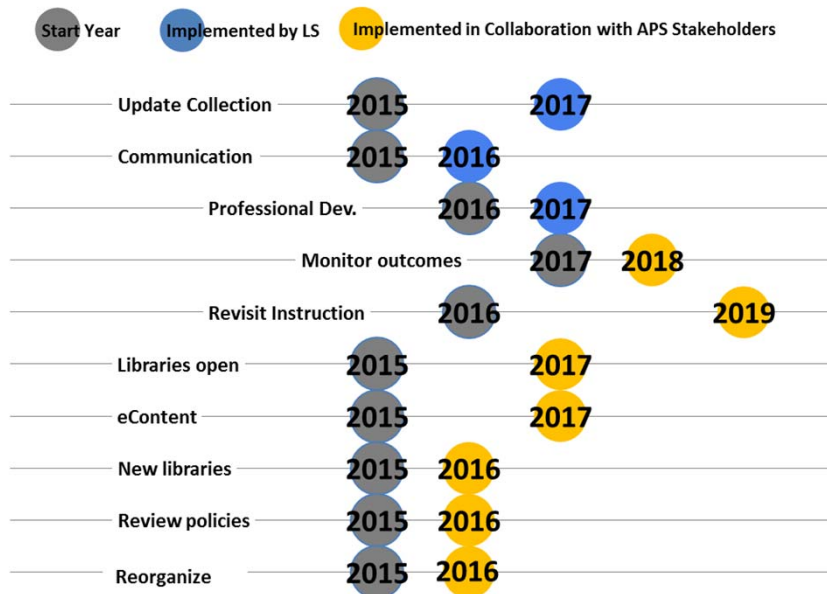
Evaluation includes ten recommendations to improve services

Three types of recommendations

1. Recommendations the program is working on OR program can implement with existing resources.
2. Recommendations that require buy in and/or coordination with other programs, departments, and/or schools.
3. Recommendations that require the School Board to make policy or budget adjustments.

Library Services outlines next steps and a timeline for

1. Implementing recommendations within their purview.
2. Working with other parts of APS to implement recommendations outside of their control.



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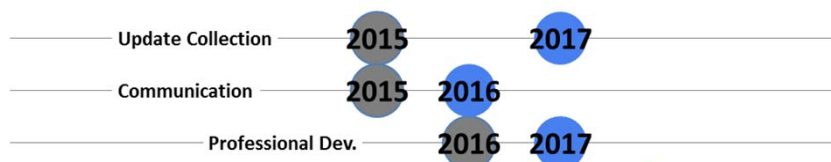


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Three recommendations Library Services will undertake to improve services

- 1. Establish and implement a plan to update school collections and keep them current.**
 - 2014-15 – Inventory will be completed in 2015.
 - 2015-16 – Incorporate a new model for collection analysis to determine needs.
 - 2016-17 – Update collections with current resources, submit a budget request to meet the goals if required.
- 2. Improve communication between central office and school staff and among school librarians.**
 - 2014-15 – Supervisor reinstated weekly communication, and monthly librarian meetings within the Professional Learning Community (PLC) format focusing heavily on peer instruction.
 - 2015-16 – Librarians will be asked to observe peers in the style of instructional rounds to see what practices are being implemented at other schools.
- 3. Provide professional development and other resources to library staff to foster best practices in library instruction.**
 - 2015-16 – Librarians will continue to meet in monthly PLCs to share ideas and focus on areas of growth.



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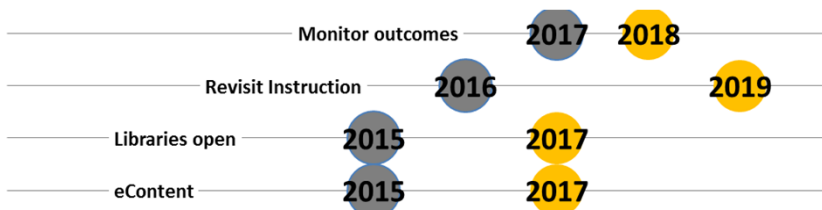


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Four recommendations that require help from other parts of APS.

- 4. Monitor student outcomes: information literacy, digital citizenship, and recreational reading**
2015-16 – Librarians will work with school staff and Information Services to gauge student use of and access to library resources.
- 5. Work with schools to ensure that librarians provide high quality instruction aligned to the curriculum.**
2015-16 – Administrators should support teaching staff in working with librarians to provide high quality, collaborative, instruction through strategies such as librarians pushing out to classrooms; support for fixed/flex scheduling models, and the use of the TRAILS assessment by teachers and librarians, particularly at the higher levels, to ensure consistent instruction in research competencies. Choice reading should be integrated into core curriculum wherever possible.
- 6. Work with schools and Human Resources to keep libraries open during lunch, before and after school.**
2015-16 – Librarians who currently evidence “best practices” for access will share those policies and procedures with the group. The Library Services (LS) Supervisor will then share these practices with the principals. LS additionally would like duty schedules at the elementary level to be adjusted, as needed, so that elementary libraries are always staffed.
- 7. Work with Information Services to speed up the integration of eContent.**
2014-15 – A representative from Information Services should be permanently tasked to meet with the LS Supervisor as a liaison on a regular, frequent basis as soon as possible. This would help speed the integration of eContent, such as databases and eBooks, as well as provide necessary data for analysis by student subgroups. eContent is critical in balancing the playing field for English language learners and students with special needs, as the tools available allow students to adapt content to their individual needs. This partnership could also yield new and original ideas on library technology currently in use and how that technology should be upgraded and changed in the coming years.



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Three recommendations with policy and/or budget implications.

8. Work with Facilities & Operations to participate in design of new and existing libraries.

2015-16 – LS supports the current trend towards flexibility and openness in library design, balanced with the need to have multiple instructional groups in a single library simultaneously. LS will work with Facilities & Operations in the design and implementation of new schools, such as Discovery Elementary, and in the redesign of existing programs, such as McKinley and Abingdon.

9. Work with Digital Learning Steering Committee to ensure that current policies and procedures appropriately address student needs in regard to digital citizenship and information literacy.

2015-16 – The Department of Instruction, Information Services, Student Services, and school representatives have created a partnership to enhance and transform student learning in regard to technology integration. LS will work with this group to ensure that current policies and procedures appropriately address student needs in regard to digital citizenship and information literacy.

10. Through the FY2016 budget process, shift cataloging process to schools to improve the time it takes to access materials

2015-16 – LS will modernize and streamline current practices, pushing cataloging out to the schools to provide improved resources to students and staff.

New libraries	2015	2016
Review policies	2015	2016
Reorganize	2015	2016

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Program Context

- **Time of change.** Since 2011, there have been three supervisors and three circulation systems
- Current supervisor appointed in August 2014

Arlington's Evaluation Process

- Process used by APS for **continuous improvement**
- Committee representing program **stakeholders helped with planning**
- **Various methodologies used** to collect data in 2013-14 and fall 2014

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