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Principals Who Support Information Literacy Collaboartion between Teachers and Media Specialist

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**Principals Who Support
Information Literacy
Collaboration Between Teachers
& Media Specialists**

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GA Information Literacy Conference

October 4, 2008

Standards Support Collaboration

- “An effective library media program requires ongoing support.”

Information Power, 1998.

Standards Support Collaboration

- New AASL Standards for 21st Century continues to support collaboration:
 - “School librarians collaborate with others to provide instruction, learning strategies, and practice in using essential learning skills in the 21st century.”
 - (AASL, 2007)

Why Principal Support for Information Literacy Collaboration?

- Supports research on student achievement.
- Enhances principal's administrative practice

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Research on Student Achievement

- Research done in 15 states by Keith Curry Lance & others.
 - Certified media specialists
 - Technology-rich environment
 - Collaboration between media specialist & teachers

Principal's Administrative Practice

- Perceived as effective administrator who involves all faculty in instruction.
- Perceived as administrator who knows how to improve student achievement.

Principals Show Support When:

- Fosters a harmonious working environment that allows faculty collaboration.
 - Allows faculty to experiment with teaching
 - Communicates that collaboration works
 - Provides resources & technology that support curriculum
 - Showcases best practice for teaching
 - Showcases excellent student work

Principals Show Support When:

- Emphasizes resource-based learning.
 - Provides adequate media center budget.
 - Embraces technology-rich media center environment.
 - Understands that media center materials enhance the curriculum.
 - Encourages teachers to be active media center users for research.

Principals Show Support When:

- Offers common planning times
 - Schedules planning times so media specialist and teachers can meet to plan instruction.
 - Provides substitutes for teachers to meet with the media specialist.
 - Attends planning meetings to show support.

Principals Show Support When:

- Promotes Feeling of Trust & Mutual Respect Among Faculty Members:
 - Comes directly from principal first.
 - Showcases successful collaboration projects.
 - Gives verbal rewards of successful collaboration done.
 - Attends collaboration events.

Principals Show Support When:

- Communicates Expectations About Collaboration:
 - Verbally communicates that collaboration is expected.
 - Repeats in writing that collaboration is expected.
 - Evaluates faculty on how much collaboration achieved.
 - Offers praises to faculty when collaboration occurs.

Benefits of Information Literacy Collaboration

- “Good things happen” for students when two or more teachers collaborate.
- Students receive the benefit of all educator’s expertise.
- Students have the support of two or more teachers instead of one.
- Students benefit from double or triple the expert content knowledge.
- Student’s academic achievement improves.

Principal's Support Is Crucial

- Principal sets the stage for collaboration to occur.
- Information literacy taught in the context of subject content is more meaningful.
- Media specialists & teachers benefit because students benefit.

For More Information on Topic

- Consult:
 - Principal Support of Media Specialist and Teacher Collaboration: A Research Study in *Educational Media & Technology Yearbook*, 2009.

THE END

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