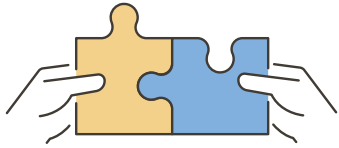


School Libraries Thrive With Support: A Teacher-Librarian's Appeal

What does a teacher-librarian (TL) do?

Collaboration time:

teach literacy skills, critical thinking, and how to effectively and responsibly navigate media.



School library resources:

locate resources to support classroom learning, locate professional resources for teachers, and evaluate library resources.



Foster a love for reading:

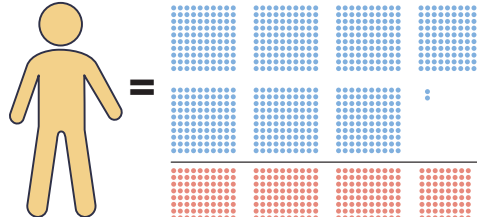
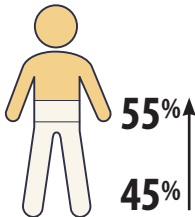
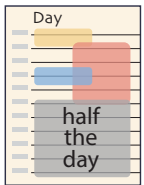
curate a collection to encourage joy of reading, host book talks to connect students with books to love, and run book challenges to motivate students.



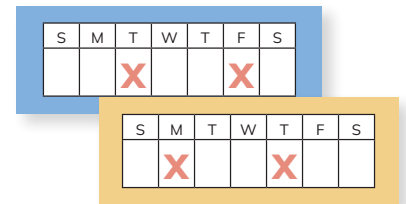
Student access to TL is on the decline

Collaboration time has decreased

Hit with budget issues, schools are combining mandatory TL time with prep. In 2023–24, 45% of TLs who did some form of prep coverage said it made up half their day. In 2024–25, that rose to 55%.

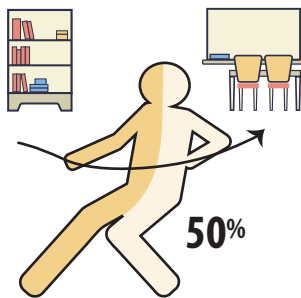


In elementary schools, library learning commons are closed two days a week on average.

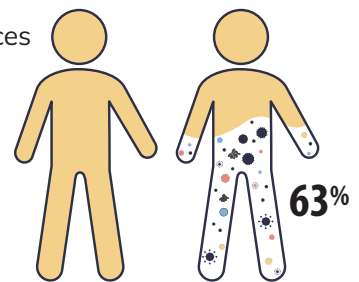


The teacher shortage means less time for teacher-librarians in the library

Almost half of TLs were pulled from their role to cover classroom teachers' absences due to the teacher shortage.

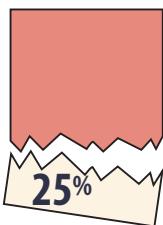


63% of teacher-librarians' absences are not covered.

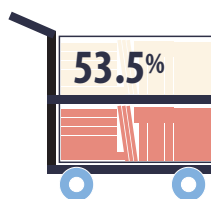


Teacher-librarian workload is increasing

25% of secondary school TLs report rarely or never getting their contractual preparation time.



53.5% of survey respondents have no library assistance to help with book processing and other library tasks.



Almost 30% of respondents do not take a lunch break in order to keep the library open for students.



How to be a teacher-librarian ally

Write a letter to your MLA and school board trustees to advocate for a lower student-to-TL ratio and increased funding to ensure that all schools have the resources and support they need. You can download a template letter from our website at bctla.ca/member-services/advocacy/.

