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## Education Committee

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### HB 1609

**Brief Description:** Concerning school library information and technology programs.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Eslick, Jacobsen, Dent, Pollet, Graham and Leavitt.

#### Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires school district boards of directors to provide resources and materials for the operation of school library information and technology programs (library technology programs), and to ensure that each student has access to a library technology program that meets specified requirements.
- Requires school districts to adopt policies related to district obligations for library technology programs and student access.
- Requires the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide data, information, summaries of best practices, and other assistance to school districts for the purpose of implementing library technology program requirements.

**Hearing Date:** 2/7/23

**Staff:** Ethan Moreno (786-7386).

#### Background:

School district boards of directors must provide resources and materials for the operation of school library information and technology programs (library technology programs) that they deem necessary for the proper education of the district's students or as otherwise required by law or administrative rule.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

A library technology program is a school-based program that is staffed by a certificated teacher-librarian and provides a broad, flexible array of services, resources, and instruction that support student mastery of the state learning standards.

The teacher-librarian, through the library technology program, must collaborate as an instructional partner to help all students meet the content goals in all subject areas, and assist high school students completing High School and Beyond Plans required for graduation.

The teacher-librarian's duties may also include collaborating with schools to:

- integrate information and technology into curricula and instruction;
- provide information management instruction to students and staff about how to effectively use emerging learning technologies for school and lifelong learning, as well as in the appropriate use of computers and mobile devices in an educational setting;
- help teachers and students efficiently and effectively access the highest quality information available while using information ethically;
- instruct students in digital citizenship, including how to be critical consumers of information and provide guidance about thoughtful and strategic use of online resources; and
- create a culture of reading in the school community by developing a diverse, student-focused collection of materials.

Some funding for teacher-librarian positions is provided in the state prototypical school funding model that is used for traditional public schools, with different funding ratios for elementary, middle, and high schools. With some exceptions, the distribution formulae are for allocation purposes only, meaning school districts have significant discretion over how the provided moneys are used.

### **Summary of Bill:**

School district boards of directors are expressly directed provide resources and materials for the operation of library technology programs, with provisions granting districts discretion in determining the amount of provided resources and materials deleted. The boards of directors must also ensure that each student has access to a library technology program that meets specified requirements.

By September 1, 2024, each school district must adopt or amend:

- a policy acknowledging the requirement for boards of directors to provide every student with access to library technology programs; and
- procedures describing how students can access resources and materials from those programs.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction must provide data, information, summaries of best practices, and other assistance to school districts for the purpose of implementing library technology program requirements.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 5, 2023.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.