



SCASL Position Statement on Evaluating School Librarians

Statement of the issue:

South Carolina School Librarians are currently being evaluated using varied methods such as *The Expanded ADEPT Support and Evaluation System* that uses Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) and the Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) that were designed to evaluate classroom teachers, not school librarians.

The South Carolina Association of School Librarians (SCASL) supports a uniform evaluation protocol for School Librarians that uses the Goals Based Evaluation (GBE) system. SCASL strongly recommends that district personnel develop a collaborative partnership with their School Librarians to effectively evaluate the performance of School Librarians and the impact of the school library programs on student learning and achievement using this protocol.

The seven (7) ADEPT Performance Standards (APS) address all areas of a high quality School Library program. GBE goals should be based upon one or more of the ADEPT standards. The ADEPT APS components are supported by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDOE), the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), and American Library Association (ALA) approved Library Information Science (LIS) programs.

The South Carolina Impact Study clearly shows the positive impact that School Librarians and strong school library programs have on student learning and achievement.

The Expanded Adept Support and Evaluation System, Student Learning Objectives Guidebook published by the South Carolina Department of Education Office of Educator Effectiveness in March of 2015 states:

“Measuring student growth through SLO is appropriate for classroom-based teachers who have direct interaction with students. This includes certified teachers of core academic subjects, related subjects (e.g. physical education, career and technology education) and special education. The term classroom-based teacher does not include special area personnel (e.g. school counselors, library media specialists, speech-language therapists.)”

This document further clarifies the evaluation protocol by stating on Page 37: “School counselors, speech and language therapists, and library media specialists will continue to be evaluated under the existing 2006 ADEPT guidelines for the 2015-16 school year.”

References:

The Expanded Adept Support and Evaluation System, Student Learning Objectives Guidebook
<http://ed.sc.gov/scdoe/assets/file/agency/ee/Educator-Evaluation-Effectiveness/documents/slo/SLOGuidebook.pdf>