

Finding Our Future School Librarian Leaders, Professors, and Researchers: Going Back to the Field to Get Them May Be Getting Harder

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ABSTRACT

Educators of school librarians must be cognizant of changing licensure requirements for their state. Recent discussions of rule recommendations regarding all aspects of preparation and licensure (PEPSC, n.d.), including credentialing and micro credentialing, may impact university educator preparation programs. Due to the COVID pandemic, the “great resignation” may force states to rely even more heavily on alternative licensure and/or credentials.

At the same time, advanced educator preparation programs for library administrators, instructors of school librarianship, and researchers in the field of school libraries work to provide highly qualified leadership to support the professional role of the librarian in schools and recruit a diverse work force at both the PreK-12 and university level (Dawkins, Branyon, Churchill, Soulen, and Wine, 2021; Howard, 2015; Mardis, Kimmel, and Pasquini, 2018). University programs which educate future school librarians rely on a pool of qualified teachers for recruitment. Advanced programs for district supervision, and for EdD and PhD programs such as the NxtWave community of scholars also depend on a field of highly qualified professionals to draw from.

How will accrediting bodies such as ALA and CAEP be affected by alternative licensing programs? Who will oversee the quality of micro credentials? How can university programs address the Go back and Get It narrative to motivate current school librarians to continue their education at higher levels using NxtWave as a model? Where will we find this pool of professionals to draw from? These and many other practical questions remain unanswered even as state educational departments move toward allowing more pathways to licensure.

ALISE RESEARCH TAXONOMY TOPICS

Education; education programs/schools; accreditation; school libraries; students.

AUTHOR KEYWORDS

School librarian licensure; school librarian preparation; educator preparation programs; accreditation; NxtWave Community of Scholars