

“What Library?”: A Survey of Charter School Leaders About School Library Services

Katherine Klein^a

^aUniversity of South Carolina, USA

kk22@email.sc.edu

ABSTRACT

Although charter schools are a growing segment of the US education market, they are less likely than traditional public or private schools to have dedicated library facilities, staffing, or services. Currently there is little data about what services charter schools provide to support literacy, research, or technology skill building - services commonly provided by school libraries. Without these data it is unknown whether, how, or to what extent charter schools without school libraries ensure that their students have access to these crucial learning resources. This study collected data in 87 US based K-12 charter schools across 11 states using an online survey completed by school administrators. This survey addresses library services of charter schools both with and without school library facilities. The survey shows that most charters lack facilities and staffing to provide quality school library services. In charters that have a school library the data suggests the school benefits from more services to encourage reading for fun and information literacy instruction that can improve technology use and research skills. This study informs future research and advocacy for charter school libraries.

ALISE RESEARCH TAXONOMY TOPICS

Information services; School libraries; Information practices; Education.

AUTHOR KEYWORDS

School library services; Information literacy instruction; Access to reading materials; Charter schools; Survey.

Copyright 2023 by the authors. Published under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. See <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.alise.2023.1292>

