

2016 Legislative Session

# South Dakota Library Association Legislative Platform

The South Dakota Library Association recognizes that K-12 education in South Dakota is a top priority. The future of South Dakota depends on developing citizens who are literate, critical thinkers, and life-long learners. South Dakota's teacher librarians play an essential role in helping students develop the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills needed for a competitive workforce and first class leadership.

## Blue Ribbon Task Force on Teachers and Students

The South Dakota Library Association supports the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Teachers and Students. The South Dakota Library Association calls on our legislators to:

- Adopt a new funding formula based on a statewide average teacher salary of \$48,000 and maintain the average student-to-teacher ratio at 14:1.
- Allocate at least \$75 million in state spending in new ongoing funding for teacher salaries.
- Increase the state sales and use tax for additional ongoing revenue.
- Develop benchmarks for average teacher salaries to ensure goals are met.
- Appropriate at least \$1 million in ongoing funds for learning innovation.

