

# The Role of Library Media Specialists and Media Centers in Supporting Michigan's School Improvement Framework

*Following are key characteristics of the role that Media Specialists and Media Centers can provide in supporting some of the Key Characteristics identified in Michigan's School Improvement Framework (identified by the Media Specialists in the REMC 12 East region).*

Strand 1 – Teaching for Learning		
<i>Standard</i>	<i>Benchmark</i>	<i>Key Characteristic</i>
Standard 1 – Curriculum	Benchmark A – Aligned, reviewed and monitored	<p>Curriculum Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Specialists collaborate with curriculum leaders to design core curriculum that incorporates strategies to use media resources to support teaching and learning (in all subjects, specifically Social Studies and English Language Arts)</li> <li>• Media Specialists collaborate with curriculum leaders to develop a scope and sequence of library and media skills that are integrated into the core curriculum standards and benchmarks</li> <li>• Media Specialists develop a collection of relevant and pertinent resources that support and enhance the curriculum.</li> </ul>
Standard 2 – Instruction	Benchmark A – Planning	<p>Content Appropriateness and Developmental Appropriateness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Specialists support instructional practices through collaborating with teachers in designing lessons that integrate appropriate research skills (Big 6 and Information Power models)</li> </ul>
	Benchmark B – Delivery	<p>Delivered Curriculum and Best Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Specialists provide best practices to identify curriculum aligned research and information resources that support curriculum and differentiated instruction (e.g. print and non print online resources such as Pathfinder, United Streaming, Citation Machine, etc. to meet various learning styles and needs)</li> </ul> <p>Best Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Specialists provide professional development opportunities (group and one-on-one) for teachers on how to best integrate media and technology to support the curriculum.</li> <li>• Media Specialists serve as liaisons between the technology department and instructional staff.</li> </ul>

Strand II – Leadership		
<i>Standard</i>	<i>Benchmark</i>	<i>Key Characteristic</i>
Standard 1 – Instructional Leadership	Benchmark A: Educational Program	<p>Technology Change Agent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media Specialists are a catalyst for change by providing leadership in curricular and instructional areas by linking administrators and teaching staff with current and innovative theories, practices and resources.</li> </ul>
	Benchmark B: Instructional Support	<p>Coaching and Facilitating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media Specialists explore new and innovative models that support how instructional media and technology can best be used to support teachers’ teaching and students’ learning.</li> </ul>
Standard 2 – Shared Leadership	Benchmark A: School Culture and Climate	<p>Learning Focused</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media Centers/Libraries provide a climate that is conducive to learning for students and staff</li> </ul> <p>Inclusive and Equitable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media Centers are accessible by all students as an equitable resource.</li> </ul> <p>Collaborative Decision Making Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media Specialists engage administrative and instructional staff in determining resource and collection development that is aligned with curricular needs.</li> <li>Media Specialists provide professional development on how to integrate best practices into the curriculum and collaboratively decide together on how to best meet the needs of the curriculum.</li> <li>Media Specialists collaborating with teachers result in improved student scores, as evidenced by studies in places such as Colorado.</li> </ul>
	Benchmark B – Continuous Improvement	<p>Implemented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media Specialists are collaborating with curriculum leaders in order to encourage continuous improvement.</li> </ul>
Standard 3 – Operational and Resource Management	Benchmark A: Resource Allocation	<p>Fiscal and Equipment and Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media Center equipment and materials are identified, streamlined and then budgeted to support curriculum equitably throughout all grade levels</li> <li>Shared equipment and materials allocated to building Media Centers extends and supports the enhancement of teaching through shared resources</li> </ul>

Strand III: Personnel and Professional Learning		
<i>Standard</i>	<i>Benchmark</i>	<i>Key Characteristic</i>
Standard 1 – Personnel Qualifications	Benchmark A: Requirements	<p>Certifications and NCLB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strong library media program includes a highly qualified professional who provides students and teachers with direct links to their information and instructional needs.</li> </ul>
	Benchmark B: Skills, knowledge and dispositions	<p>Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Specialists provide professional development on how to integrate best practices into the curriculum and collaboratively decide together on how to best meet the needs of the curriculum.</li> <li>• Media Specialists collaborating with teachers result in improved student scores, as evidenced by studies in places such as Colorado.</li> </ul> <p>Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Specialists explore new and innovative models that support how instructional technology can best be used to support teachers’ teaching and students’ learning.</li> <li>• Media Specialists provide professional development opportunities (group and one-on-one) for teachers on how to best integrate technology to support the curriculum.</li> <li>• Media Specialists serve as liaisons between the technology department and instructional staff.</li> </ul>
Standard 2: Professional Learning	Benchmark A: Collaboration	<p>Staff participates in learning teams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Specialists provide professional development opportunities (group and one-on-one) for teachers on how to best integrate media and technology to support the curriculum.</li> </ul> <p>Staff collaboratively analyze student work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Specialists work together with school improvement teams to identify areas that need enhanced resources to support curriculum and student achievement.</li> </ul>
	Benchmark B: Content and Pedagogy	<p>Uses Best Practices and Induction/Mentoring/Coaching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Specialists explore new and innovative models that support how instructional technology can best be used to support teachers’ teaching and students’ learning.</li> </ul>

<b>Strand III: Personnel and Professional Learning</b>		
<i>Standard</i>	<i>Benchmark</i>	<i>Key Characteristic</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Specialists provide professional development opportunities (group and one-on-one) for teachers on how to best integrate media and technology to support the curriculum.</li> <li>• Media Specialists serve as liaisons between the technology department and instructional staff.</li> <li>• Media Specialists work with new staff on how to best use the resources of the media center.</li> </ul>
	Benchmark C: Alignment	<p>Job-embedded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Specialists collaborate with teachers on their planning time, at staff meetings and after school in order to showcase and mentor them in the use of new and underutilized resources.</li> <li>• Media Specialists and teachers partner together to show their colleagues how to best use media and technology resources.</li> </ul>

<b>Strand IV: School and Community Relations</b>		
<i>Standard</i>	<i>Benchmark</i>	<i>Key Characteristic</i>
Standard 1: Parent/Family Involvement	Benchmark A: Communication	Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media Specialists create parent newsletters, participate in parent nights, and utilize district online communication tools to identify recommended readings, volunteerism, resources available, etc.</li> </ul>
	Benchmark B: Engagement	Extended Learning Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media Specialists partner with local libraries in order to educate parents on the resources available both at school and in the community for use by them and their students (e.g. bilingual resources).</li> </ul>
Standard 2: Community Involvement	Benchmark B: Engagement	Collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media Centers collaborate with community resources to enhance the learning experience (e.g. county summer reading program, video conferences to connect kids to kids elsewhere in the country for reading, etc.).</li> <li>Media Centers and their resources are used by the community for various community events.</li> </ul>

<b>Strand V: Data and Informational Management</b>		
<i>Standard</i>	<i>Benchmark</i>	<i>Key Characteristic</i>
Standard 1: Data Management	Benchmark B: Data Accessibility	Retrievable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Center collection reservations are available online for students to review availability from school and home (e.g. Follett)</li> <li>• Media Center resources are available online for students to use as research from school and home (e.g. MeL)</li> </ul>
	Benchmark C: Data Support	Process and Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Specialists review and maintain data on usage and age of collections to ensure collection relevance.</li> <li>• Media Specialists access and distribute usage reports to identify usage trends and areas to focus attention (e.g. United Streaming usage).</li> </ul>