

Wyoming School Library Survey 2024-25

Summary: K-12 public school libraries

June 2025

Each year, the Wyoming State Library conducts a voluntary survey of school libraries to collect basic information on staffing, budgets, student use of the library and other measures.

The 2024-25 survey saw a 32% response rate, lower than in previous years. This could be due to any number of factors, including staffing changes as a result of funding changes.

In staffing, the report includes those FTEs designated as Computer/Network -- Library-Media Technician (CNT) by the Wyoming Department of Education, as those FTEs are reported as library FTEs in the Common Core of Data. Staffing data is obtained from the WDE rather than reported by schools for the sake of consistency.

Collecting instructional time continues to be a challenge, as the data provided is often inconsistent with the amount of library media specialist staffing reported by the Wyoming Department of Education.

A large body of research has shown that a strong school library program – with sufficient staffing, collections, and budget – is associated with higher student test scores. Much of that research, conducted in more than 20 states, has been compiled by Library Research Service on their website at

<https://www.lrs.org/data-tools/school-libraries/impact-studies/>.

Research shows that higher test scores correlate with:

1. The size of the school library staff
2. Full-time/certified school librarians
3. The frequency of library-centered instruction and collaborative instruction between school librarians and teachers
4. Size or currency of library collections
5. Licensed databases through a school library network
6. Flexible scheduling
7. School library spending (Lance, et al., 2001; Baxter & Smalley, 2003).

This report gives summary data by grade level. Individual school details and prior years' surveys are located on the Wyoming State Library's statistics page at <https://library.wyo.gov/services/wyoming-libraries/library-statistics/>.

Questions about this survey may be directed to:

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Response rate and reported LIM/LMA staffing

WDE K-12 schools by State School ID	
Total WDE schools in state by NCES number	340
Schools reporting data	94
Response rate	32.1%

WDE K-12 schools with LIM and/or LMA staffing, by State School ID	
Total WDE schools in state by NCES number	340
Schools with LIM/LMA staffing	288
Percentage with LIM/LMA staffing	84.7%

WDE K-12 schools with LIM staffing, by State School ID	
Total WDE schools in state by NCES number	340
Schools with LIM staffing	116
Percentage with LIM staffing	34.1%

LIM: Library Media Specialist

LMA: Library Media Aide

The Wyoming Department of Education assigns each school a separate State School ID. In 2024-25, the WDE listed 340 public K-12 schools. In some cases, a single school building houses multiple schools. For example, a K-12 school may have three separate School ID numbers for the elementary, middle and high schools, yet still be one unified school. This complicates calculating a response rate, as it is not known how many non-responding schools are co-located.

Going by State School ID, 94 schools with libraries responded to this year's survey, for a response rate of 32.1%.

Out of 340 schools, 288 (84.7%) have designated LIM or LMA FTEs. Only about a third (34.1%, 116 out of 340) of the WDE schools are assigned Library Media Specialists FTEs. This is by WDE ID number, and not by building, so students in co-located schools or in

districts with LIM staffing assigned at the district level may still have access to a Library Media Specialist. However, it should also be noted that in many schools, the LIM hours assigned are spread out over multiple schools and the hours assigned may be minimal.

One of the challenges of this survey is that the respondents can vary from year to year. Although there is some discussion of trends in this report, please note that changes may simply be due to using a different survey sample.

Participating school libraries

Type of school	Enrollment		
	Total	Average	Median
Senior high (9-12) [15 resp.]	8,676	578.4	339.0
Junior/senior high (6-12) [7 resp.]	1,468	203.9	192.0
K-12 [4 resp.]	974	243.5	229.5
Junior high/middle (5-9) [14 resp.]	6,792	485.1	520.0
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	1,252	208.7	180.0
Elementary (K-6) [6 resp.]	12,973	270.3	288.0
Total [94 resp.]	32,135	331.6	258.8

The 94 schools that responded serve 32,135 students – 59% of the state’s entire Oct. 1, 2023 K-12 enrollment of 89,228.

Staffing

Type of school	Main contact holds library/media endorsement		Total Library Staff			Library Media Specialists			
	Number	Percent	Total FTE	Students per FTE	AVG FTE per school	Total FTE	Students per FTE	AVG FTE per school	% LIM of total FTEs
Senior high (9-12) [15 resp.]	10	66.7%	17.25	502.96	1.15	5.90	1470.51	0.39	34.20%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [7 resp.]	3	42.9%	5.84	251.37	0.83	1.50	978.67	0.21	25.68%
K-12 [4 resp.]	1	25.0%	5.54	175.91	1.38	1.00	974.00	0.25	18.06%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [14 resp.]	9	64.3%	16.03	423.84	1.14	7.40	917.84	0.53	46.18%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	2	33.3%	4.75	263.58	0.79	2.00	626.00	0.33	42.11%
Elementary (K-6) [48 resp.]	24	50.0%	50.30	257.93	1.05	14.00	926.64	0.29	27.84%
Total [94resp.]	49	52.1%	99.70	322.32	1.06	31.80	341.86	0.34	31.90%

FTE data obtained from the Wyoming Dept. of Education. LIM = Library Media Specialist, LMA = Library Media Aide

Among respondents, 49 (52.1%) report that the main contact holds a library media endorsement. Looking at all WDE schools, not just survey respondents, 172 have library aide FTEs (50.6%), but no library media specialist FTEs, although some of those schools have access to LIM staffing at the district level. As noted above, in some schools where there is LIM staffing assigned, it is minimal. Among the 94 respondents, 45 have no LIM staffing assigned

WDE data are used here because they are the most comprehensive and consistent data. Individual schools have staffing arrangements for their libraries that are not accurately reflected in these numbers.

Collection expenditures

Type of school	Total collection expenditures	Average collection expenditures			Average Expenditures per student		Dependence on grants for collections		
		Print	All other	TOTAL*	Print	Total Collection *	None	Supplements budget	Heavily dependent
Senior high (9-12) [15 resp.]	\$92,637	\$6,399	\$1,178	\$7,720	\$11.02	\$13.29	93.3%	6.7%	0.0%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [7 resp.]	\$24,900	\$2,950	\$607	\$3,557	\$14.07	\$16.96	14.3%	42.9%	14.3%
K-12 [4 resp.]	\$14,309	\$3,277	\$300	\$3,577	\$13.46	\$14.69	25.0%	75.0%	0.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [14 resp.]	\$90,398	\$5,526	\$931	\$6,457	\$11.39	\$13.31	71.4%	21.4%	7.1%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	\$22,220	\$3,670	\$33	\$3,703	\$17.59	\$17.75	40.0%	60.0%	0.0%
Elementary (K-6) [48 resp.]	\$213,933	\$4,010	\$541	\$4,552	\$15.18	\$17.23	52.2%	43.5%	4.3%
Total [94resp.]	\$458,397	\$4,427	\$648	\$5,093	\$13.34	\$15.34	57.1%	36.3%	4.4%

Out of 94 respondents, 90 provided total collection expenditure data, and those 90 provided data specifically on print purchases. On average, schools spent \$13.34 per student on print materials, up from \$10.79 in 2023-24. Total collection spending was \$15.34 per student, also up from \$12.26 in 2023-24. The higher spending per pupil could be attributed to lower enrollment numbers.

Any electronic resources purchased at the district level will not show up in school-level collection budgets, so more resources may be available to students.

Over half of libraries reported that their collections are completely funded by their school or district and that they do not rely on outside fundraising. Of the respondents, 36.3% report that they supplement their budgets, while 4.4% reported that they are heavily dependent on grants or other fundraising to maintain their collections.

Physical collections

Type of school	Total print items held	Average collection size				Average age Dewey 6xx	
		Print materials	Median print per student	Audio-video	Periodical subs	Median copyright	Median age
Senior high (9-12) [15 resp.]	146,649	11,281	22.5	303.2	2.7	2009	17
Junior/senior high (6-12) [7 resp.]	54,275	9,046	45.0	55.7	5.7	2001	24
K-12 [4 resp.]	55,126	18,375	54.3	758.3	12.7	2004	21
Junior high/middle (5-9) [14 resp.]	143,943	10,282	18.8	413.0	1.9	2009	16
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	141,961	28,392	49.1	142.6	3.2	2009	16
Elementary (K-6) [48 resp.]	504,784	10,740	37.8	106.6	1.7	2009	16
Total [94resp.]	1,046,738	11,895	34.3	201.1	2.7	2009	16

Reporting schools held over one million print items during the 2024-25 school year. The median for all reporting schools was 34.3 items per student.

Libraries were asked for the average copyright date for items in the Dewey 600s (Technology & Applied Science) range. This range was chosen because the science and technology fields change rapidly. The median date was 2009, or 16 years old at the time of the survey. A 2009 book about technology would miss many recent developments.

Currency of materials is one factor that has been associated with higher test scores, but it is also difficult to assess in an increasingly electronic environment. Anecdotal information indicates that nonfiction research is moving from print to electronic sources, particularly in the upper grades. In addition, it doesn't account for items with older copyright dates that are still valuable and should be retained. Nonetheless, older materials can contain outdated data and misinformation.

Library computers

Type of school	Student computers in library			Schools where each student issued laptop or tablet
	Number	Average computers per library	Average students per computer	
Senior high (9-12) [15 resp.]	100	6.7	83.9	100.0%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [7 resp.]	31	4.4	26.1	100.0%
K-12 [4 resp.]	27	6.8	48.6	75.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [14 resp.]	79	5.6	114.3	100.0%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	56	9.3	4.5	100.0%
Elementary (K-6) [48 resp.]	157	3.3	50.3	97.9%
Total [94resp.]	450	4.8	71.4	97.8%

Survey respondents reported a total of 450 student computer workstations in their libraries, a number that has been dwindling through the years. This is an average of 4.8 computers per library and an average of 71.4 students per computer. Likely, part of the decrease in library computers is due to the pandemic, when schools issued personal devices so students could work from home. In the 2024-25 school year, 97.8% of schools reported issuing each student a laptop or tablet, an increase from 94.3% in 2021-22.

Technology and electronic resources

Type of school	Percent of schools where						
	Library lends laptops	School has website	Library has web page	Library has links to WYLD CAT	Library has links to GoWYLD	Databases purchased locally	Remote access local databases
Senior high (9-12) [15 resp.]	53.3%	86.7%	73.3%	53.3%	80.0%	7.7%	36.4%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [7 resp.]	42.9%	100.0%	71.4%	42.9%	57.1%	28.6%	50.0%
K-12 [4 resp.]	25.0%	100.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [14 resp.]	64.3%	100.0%	71.4%	23.1%	61.5%	38.5%	53.8%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	33.3%	100.0%	66.7%	33.3%	50.0%	60.0%	50.0%
Elementary (K-6) [48 resp.]	39.6%	97.9%	66.0%	31.4%	67.6%	62.5%	62.9%
Total [94 resp.]	44.7%	96.8%	67.7%	36.3%	65.9%	46.3%	54.9%
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	42	91	63	29	54	38	39

Even though every school that responded has a website (100% of libraries reported their school has one) only half (50.4%) report having a library-specific web page. More libraries link to the GoWYLD resources (65.9%) than to the statewide online library catalog WYLD CAT (36.3%).

Every student in Wyoming has access both at school and remotely to the GoWYLD databases. A little under half of respondents said electronic resources are also purchased locally through the school or district budget: 54.9% of those schools with locally-purchased databases have remote access to those resources for students.

Only 44.7% of libraries reported loaning laptops, which is up from past years.

Scheduling and instruction

Type of school	How are classes in the school library scheduled?			Average typical weekly instructional hours
	All flexibly scheduled	Mixed flex/fixed	All at fixed times	
Senior high (9-12) [15 resp.]	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.23
Junior/senior high (6-12) [7 resp.]	71.4%	28.6%	0.0%	2.00
K-12 [4 resp.]	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	14.00
Junior high/middle (5-9) [14 resp.]	57.1%	42.9%	0.0%	8.15
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	0.0%	16.7%	83.3%	11.46
Elementary (K-6) [48 resp.]	0.0%	4.2%	95.8%	9.75
Total [94 resp.]	29.8%	13.8%	56.4%	8.62
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	37	13	53	

One of the items noted as having a positive correlation on test scores is flexible scheduling. None of the responding senior high schools or junior/senior high school had all their classes scheduled at fixed times. Fixed scheduling is more often used at the lower grades with 95.8% of K-6 schools having all their classes at fixed times.

Student learning is greatly enhanced by instruction from a qualified teacher-librarian. “Average weekly instructional hours” is a data element that attempts to discern how much library staff time is spent in formal instruction. This is a difficult data element to collect, as it is often misinterpreted. However, it is an important enough measure that it has been retained for the survey. This data does not necessarily include collaborative instruction time where teacher-librarians go into classrooms.

Professional environment

Type of school	Training outside the district is supported	On what committees do library staff participate?				Library advisory committees		
		Curriculum	Technology	School improvement	Parent/teacher organization	Faculty/admin	Student	Student on faculty committee
Senior high (9-12) [15 resp.]	78.6%	26.7%	0.0%	26.7%	6.7%	26.7%	26.7%	0.0%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [7 resp.]	14.3%	28.6%	42.9%	28.6%	0.0%	28.6%	14.3%	14.3%
K-12 [4 resp.]	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%	25.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [14 resp.]	75.0%	15.4%	41.7%	23.1%	7.7%	23.1%	7.7%	0.0%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	50.0%	33.3%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	40.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Elementary (K-6) [48 resp.]	75.6%	12.5%	25.0%	17.1%	39.0%	26.3%	5.6%	2.8%
Total [94 resp.]	68.3%	17.9%	23.2%	21.4%	22.9%	26.8%	10.1%	3.9%
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	56	15	19	18	19	22	8	3

Less than three quarters of libraries report they have support for staff to attend training opportunities outside their district. Less than one quarter of library staff (23%) reported having a role on technology committees, a key area for district leaders, particularly as AI becomes more ubiquitous.

About a quarter of schools reported having library advisory committees: 26.8% have faculty/administration advisory committees, though that number may increase as book challenges become more common.

Policies

Type of school	% of schools that have		% of libraries that have policies for				
	Library policies & procedures manual	Scheduled policy review/revision	Internet/network acceptable use	Collection development	Challenges to holdings	Copyright	Resource sharing & ILL
Senior high (9-12) [15 resp.]	93.3%	71.4%	100.0%	92.9%	100.0%	85.7%	71.4%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [7 resp.]	57.1%	42.9%	100.0%	57.1%	85.7%	28.6%	85.7%
K-12 [4 resp.]	75.0%	75.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [14 resp.]	78.6%	71.4%	92.3%	85.7%	85.7%	83.3%	71.4%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	66.7%	60.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	66.7%	83.3%
Elementary (K-6) [48 resp.]	95.3%	80.5%	97.8%	92.9%	93.5%	87.5%	79.1%
Total [94 resp.]	86.5%	72.9%	97.8%	89.5%	93.4%	80.7%	78.4%
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	77	62	88	77	85	67	69

Policies and procedures allow the library media center to operate effectively and to help library staff deal with different situations that may arise, such as book challenges. However, only 86.5% of libraries indicated they have a library policies and procedures manual. Almost three quarters of respondents (72.9%) have regularly scheduled policy review and revision, up from 44.7% from last year's survey.

Of the respondents 89.5% reported having collection development policies and 93.4% have policies for challenges to holdings. Both of these numbers have remained consistent with last year. Not having these two policies in place could prove problematic if and when challenges are brought to the libraries.

Student use

Type of school	Average 1st semester circulation	1st semester avg circ per student	Average typical weekly use:				
			Classroom sessions	Students in sessions	Independent users	Total visits	Visits per student
Senior high (9-12) [15 resp.]	2,151	3.1	11.5	206.8	245.8	436.6	0.8
Junior/senior high (6-12) [7 resp.]	1,290	6.1	6.3	85.9	87.1	173.0	0.8
K-12 [4 resp.]	3,366	12.0	13.5	150.8	88.5	239.3	0.8
Junior high/middle (5-9) [14 resp.]	3,721	8.1	12.9	237.6	210.9	448.6	0.9
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	3,200	26.7	13.3	188.0	40.3	230.5	0.8
Elementary (K-6) [48 resp.]	5,518	21.4	16.5	275.7	67.5	338.4	1.4
Total [94 resp.]	4,187	12.1	14.1	234.4	118.3	344.2	1.0
TOTAL USE	360,044		1,298	21,097	10,177	29,258	

Full-year circulation can only be estimated for any survey that ends before the school year does, so the Wyoming School Library Survey uses 1st semester circulation instead. On average, each student checked out 12 books in the 1st semester. Circulation figures are usually higher where schools serve lower grades, with K-6 schools checking out 21 books per student.

Library media centers see an average of 14 classroom sessions a week. More than half of total student visits are in classroom sessions, rather than students working independently. Total visits reported were 29,258 with an average of 1 visit per student per week.

Library availability

Type of school	Average weekly hours open	% of schools where library is open		
		Before school	After school	Neither
Senior high (9-12) [15 resp.]	38.1	93.3%	80.0%	6.7%
Junior/senior high (6-12) [7 resp.]	34.7	85.7%	71.4%	0.0%
K-12 [4 resp.]	30.3	100.0%	75.0%	0.0%
Junior high/middle (5-9) [14 resp.]	36.6	92.9%	92.3%	7.0%
K-8 & K-9 [6 resp.]	35.5	66.7%	33.3%	33.0%
Elementary (K-6) [48 resp.]	34.8	66.0%	61.7%	23.0%
Total [94 resp.]	35.4	77.4%	68.5%	16.0%
TOTAL HOURS	3,330.8			

A typical school library is open 7 to 8 hours every school day, with the average weekly hours for reporting libraries working out to 35. More than half of libraries are open before or after the scheduled school day, allowing students greater opportunity to use the library independently. Libraries that are only open during school hours make up 16% of total respondents, down from 2022-23.

Notes on the data

Additional data sources

Enrollment and staffing numbers are obtained from the Wyoming Dept. of Education (WDE). Although schools can indicate that they serve Pre-K students, only students in K-12 are counted in the enrollment figures.

Circulation data for schools participating in the WYLD system is available to the Wyoming State Library. Where WYLD-participating schools responded to the survey but did not provide circulation numbers, those were pulled from the automated system.

Imputations

In some cases it is necessary to impute data – to estimate a number when the real number is uncertain or unknown. Data that has been imputed is shaded in the spreadsheet. Where possible, schools were contacted to confirm information. Non-responses have been indicated as NA. Actual numbers of schools reporting for each data element are indicated at the beginning of the tables.

Among the rules were used to impute data are these:

- Where a range of numbers was given (e.g. 18-20), the midpoint is used as that data element.
- Dollar amounts are rounded to nearest dollar.
- Where line items were provided, but not the total, the line items were summed for the total.
- Where an estimated amount was given, that number is used.
- Where print budget and total budget matched, and non-print budget was not reported, non-print was imputed to zero (0).

- Where symbols such as >, <, + were used with a number (e.g. 40+ hours), the symbol has been deleted and the number used.

Calculated fields

Where some libraries did not respond to a specific question, averages, percentages and totals were based only on responding libraries.