

## **An Alternative Way of Learning – Home School**

One of the best things about being a teacher and librarian is I had the opportunity to help children in a variety of ways. This year I retired from public school teaching and have decided to focus on children whose parents choose an alternative way of learning – Home School. I have created my own online learning academy to help parents receive the benefit of academic assistance. Sometimes parents feel a bit overwhelmed when they first make the choice to home school their children. They aren't sure what is best academically or how much is enough, or even if they want to return their child to public school will they be up-to-speed with what the students have learned there.

As a certified educator in two states and a person who constantly keeps aware of educational and library trends I have created the Texas Learning Academy. It is an online school where parents may enroll their students as private pupils. I have year-long curriculum designed for direct online studies with me as their instructor, or partial assistance online or even the parent as the main educator. In any case I have state-aligned curriculum and can provide the necessary state testing in case the parent wants to send their child back to public school. I can assist with grade keeping, homework help and many other things. My job is to make home school family's jobs easier. Please visit my new site and school online at [www.texaslearningacademy.com](http://www.texaslearningacademy.com)

As for the library world I came upon an interesting article published June 26, 2007 that focuses on getting students more help from certified school media specialists. Here is an excerpt –

***“The Strengthening Kids’ Interest in Learning and Libraries or SKILLS Act guarantees that students across America will be served by highly qualified, state-certified school library media specialists and will have the library resources they need to succeed.”***

You can read the rest of the article by clicking [here](#).

Other services I provide to my local community in Harris County is personalized tutoring. I provide one-on-one tutoring for students who live within the Harris County area (Houston, TX). I charge according to grade level and offer services for children and adults. My certification areas are Early Childhood Education – 8<sup>th</sup> grades but I also can tutor specific subjects for high school and adults. I offer job searching and resume writing courses, study and organizational skills (which includes time management) and others. My rates are fairly reasonable and I keep them lower than most agencies because I don't have the overhead they incur. I do however limit my free travel up to 15 miles round trip. There is a mileage fee over 15 miles roundtrip due to the high cost of fuel. Check my tutoring page out here on [www.teachingtotes.com](http://www.teachingtotes.com) click on **tutoring**.

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## **Legislation Introduced to Ensure Essential Library Resources, Support for 21st Century Education**

WASHINGTON — Bi-partisan legislation introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate today is an essential step forward in ensuring that students across America have the library resources and support they need for a Twenty-First Century education, according to Leslie Burger, President of the American Library Association.

The Strengthening Kids' Interest in Learning and Libraries or SKILLS Act guarantees that students across America will be served by highly qualified, state-certified school library media specialists and will have the library resources they need to succeed.

The SKILLS Act is sponsored by Senators Jack Reed (RI) and Thad Cochran (MI) and by Representatives Raul Grijalva (AZ) and Vernon Ehlers (MI).

“Study after study proves that students in schools with well-stocked libraries and highly qualified, state-certified school librarians learn more, get better grades and score higher on standardized tests than students who do not have the same benefits,” Burger said. “Today, only 60 percent of school libraries have full-time, state-certified school library media specialists on staff. With limited resources, school administrators are struggling to stretch dollars, and library resource budgets are increasingly being used to make up for shortfalls in other areas.”

The SKILLS Act ensures that library funds will be available to serve students in elementary, middle and high schools throughout the nation; that appropriate books and materials will be available for students at all grade levels, including those with special learning needs and those learning English as a second language; and that highly qualified school library media specialists will be available to assist and support all students with their learning needs.

“We know that school libraries are a critical component in improving student literacy skills and academic achievement. This legislation recognizes what makes this success possible: highly-trained librarians,” said Senator Jack Reed. “As technology rapidly changes the way our children learn, it is imperative that we have experienced librarians who can help kids harness these new technologies and access the information they need. The SKILLS Act underscores the value of school libraries by encouraging the hiring of highly-qualified school library media specialists in our nation’s school libraries.”

Senator Cochran added, “School librarians play an important role in the lives of students of all ages. The ability to foster confidence in a student to research a topic about which

he or she wants to learn is a unique gift. A child who understands and is comfortable with information technology is a child who will grow up with the ability to learn throughout his or her lifetime. The SKILLS Act will provide federal support and incentives to strengthen our school libraries, which I hope will improve education in America.”

Rep. Grijalva stated, "School libraries often serve as a second classroom and the school librarian as an adjunct teacher. Our children are losing out on qualified professionals trained to collaborate with teachers and engage students meaningfully with information that matters to them both in the classroom and in the real world. This legislation would bridge that gap and ensure a highly qualified librarian for every school.”

Rep. Ehlers added a personal note. “I know personally how important reading is to a child’s learning process,” he said. “Frequent illness from asthma caused me to adopt reading as my favorite hobby as a child, which helped spark my interest in a number of things, including my passion for science. All children should be encouraged to have the same appetite for reading as I had as a child, and one of the main keys to that are school libraries.”

The SKILLS Act reauthorizes and strengthens the Improving Literacy through School Library Program of the No Child Left Behind Act.

**[AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION](#)**

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