

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Education & Early Development

Office of the Commissioner

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

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January 3, 2008

Erika Drain, President
Alaska Association of School Librarians
Mt. Edgecumbe High School
1330 Seward Avenue
Sitka, AK 99835-9438

Dear Ms. Drain:

After researching your association's questions, I have found there have been no changes in policies regarding certification of school librarians since Commissioner Sampson wrote Barbara Bryson, President of ASLA, in November, 2006.

Alaska certifies individuals based on the following type of program they complete:

1. School Librarian, or
2. Library Science and Media Specialist.

With regard to Initial teacher certification in Alaska: Should a person complete an approved teacher preparation program in School Library and receive an Institutional Recommendation stating the same, he/she would be issued an Initial teacher certificate with a School Librarian endorsement.

With regard to Type C Special Services certification: Should a person complete a special services program in a library area and receive an Institutional Recommendation stating the same, he/she would be issued a Type C certificate endorsed in the library area indicated on the Institutional Recommendation.

With regard to additional endorsements on certificates: When a teacher who holds a Type A or Professional teacher certificate completes a program and receives an Institutional Recommendation in a library area, he/she may add the library endorsement to his/her Type A or Professional teacher certificate while continuing to have his/her content area endorsement remain on the certificate. When a person who holds a Type C Special Services certificate completes a program and receives an Institutional Recommendation in a library area, he/she may add the endorsement to his/her Type C certificate.

With regard to renewal of a certificate: When a person holding a Type A or Professional teacher certificate with an endorsement in a library area and another content area renews a certificate, all endorsements remain on the certificate. When a person who holds a Type C Special Services

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certificate endorsed in a library area renews a certificate, the endorsement remains on the certificate.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Finally, please allow me this opportunity to thank each of your association's members for the necessary, and often, outstanding, contributions they make to educational programs in Alaska's schools!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hal Spackman". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hal Spackman
Deputy Commissioner

cc: Cynthia Curran, Administrator Teacher Certification