Dear [*Name of your political candidate*],

A quality education is vital for children in today’s world, both for their personal achievement and satisfaction but also for their contribution towards making our country [/Name] a better place to live and more competitive on the international stage. Our children need to improve their literacy and numeracy and skills in finding, interrogating and transforming information.

There is a substantial body of research demonstrating that schools with well-resourced school libraries staffed by trained teacher librarians raise the academic achievement level of their students. The 2016 edition of [*School Libraries Work!*](http://www.scholastic.com/SLW2016/) - <http://www.scholastic.com/SLW2016/> points to more recent research studies which replicate and extend previous findings, that school libraries under qualified school librarians:

* operate as knowledge creations centres
* support self-directed and differentiated learning
* provide collaborative programs of reading instruction which raise literacy
* match students to books and raise interest in reading
* supply, organise and maintain selected learning resources which support the curriculum to meet the needs of all students
* encourage students to build information literacy and competency in researching
* integrate technology effectively into teaching and learning
* train students to become aware and knowledgeable digital global citizens who critique their sources of information and acknowledge them ethically
* collaborate, share research and co-teach with other teachers.

*The International Association of School Librarianship* (IASL) has also assembled a significant body of international research, which echoes the same findings. *Room to Read*, the charity that builds school libraries in developing countries, has now assisted 10 million children in their education; they evaluate the data they receive and their conclusions about the effectiveness of school libraries and reading programs in these developing countries follows the same lines - <http://ow.ly/UKQGz>. In addition, Dr Stephen Krashen, one of the world’s most respected voices in the field of children and reading, makes the passionate point that the strongest indicator for protecting children from the effects of poverty is their opportunity to read and access to school libraries - <http://www.sdkrashen.com/content/articles/2011._protecting_students_against_the_effects_of_poverty.pdf>

We appeal for your support in improving the academic achievement of our children by advocating for:

* school libraries with qualified teacher librarians
* adequate funding for school libraries and
* training opportunities for teacher librarians.

Yours sincerely,

*[Sign your name]*