



Rhode Island Library Information Network for Kids  
c/o East Bay Educational Collaborative  
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Dr. Frank Pallotta Ed.D.  
Burrillville School Department  
2300 Bronco Highway  
Harrisville, RI 02830

**Sample letter**

March 17, 2010

Dear Superintendent Pallotta:

Research shows that school libraries have a significant impact on student achievement, particularly when school library media specialists work collaboratively with teachers. Because of your interest in student achievement, we want to share this research with you. The enclosed **Case for School Libraries** summarizes these research findings.

The new Basic Education Program, the Student Requirements for Graduation and the Statewide Curriculum for students at all levels point out the vital role that school libraries and library media specialists must play in Rhode Island in order for students to meet expectations and achieve success. RILINK also has a major role in providing access to resources for student reading and research, and in providing professional development opportunities for library media specialists.

Because of your interest in school libraries, I want to share RILINK's progress with you. A cooperative effort by Rhode Island school libraries to share their resources, RILINK currently serves over 40% of Rhode Island public school students. Member libraries in 26 different school districts are working together, sharing their books, audiovisual materials and expertise to provide better service to their 62,000 students and teachers. We have expanded rapidly over the past eleven years, from the original two schools in 1998 to the current 105 members.

Through RICAT, students and teachers have access to more than one million books and audiovisual items and more than 60,000 subject-based web links that are K-12 appropriate, chosen for their relevance to the curriculum. RICAT also facilitates access to the electronic databases available through [AskRI.org](http://AskRI.org). Through the statewide library network, students and teachers can get books and other materials from Rhode Island public and academic libraries. If what is needed can't be found in Rhode Island, the statewide library network will forward their requests to other libraries worldwide. This means that **literally the entire world is open to students and teachers at RILINK schools, even to those students who cannot get to their local public libraries and must rely on whatever they can get through their school library.**

Thank you again for your support for school libraries. Please visit us on the web at [www.ricat.net](http://www.ricat.net), and visit our online library by clicking on the large logo on the home page.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Frechette,  
Executive Director