



# AISLE

Association of Illinois School  
Library Educators

As study after study shows, licensed school librarians play an essential part in student achievement. Therefore, it is disappointing that every Chicago Teachers Union proposal to include more school clinicians and licensed school librarians is returned by Chicago Public Schools with language about librarians omitted from the counter-proposal. We, the Board members at the Association of Illinois School Library Educators, find it discouraging that CPS negotiation tactics consist of pitting educational partners against each other, forcing the CTU to accept contract language that includes one without the other.

In a recent event at the University of Chicago, the Chicago Public Schools CEO, Janice Jackson said, “Books have the power to open up a world of wonder, develop vocabulary skills, and help students spark their creativity and imagination.”

What better way to increase student access to books than by funding school library programs and staffing them with licensed school librarians? We at AISLE challenge Ms. Jackson and Mayor Lightfoot to stop paying lip service to the importance of literacy and student achievement and take concrete steps that demonstrate their commitment to the students of Chicago by including school librarians in the contract language.