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Based on research over the last two decades in Australia ([and summarized here by education professors at UNC-Greensboro](https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1015175.pdf)), all school libraries --and all education spaces, in general -- need a campfire, a watering hole, and a cave. The campfire is a place to gather and hear from an expert, which could be an educator, a guest speaker from the community, or one or more students. The watering hole is an informal space where students can gather and share ideas, letting their most creative selves thrive. Finally, the cave is a place for quiet reflection and introspection; it's where our learners take time to process new inputs and make sense of the many connections their young brains are working through.

Well-resourced schools and skilled educators already try to create some version of this alignment within their library spaces, but it shouldn't be left to chance and zip code. I think all Vermont school library spaces should be equipped with the physical plant, tools, resources, and staffing to make what I think is the optimal configuration real for their learners.