

# AASL LONG RANGE PLAN [plan]

## MISSION STATEMENT

*"The mission of the American Association of School Librarians is to provide leadership and support for the development, promotion, improvement of school library media programs, and the school library media profession."*

### **Priority Area A: Access to Information**

*AASL will promote efforts to ensure that all students have access, without physical or psychological restrictions, to a wide variety of information resources that meet their individual abilities, needs, and interests.*

#### *Goals*

- 1. All students have equal access to accurate, appropriate, and current resources within the school as well as the community at large.*
- 2. All students are provided instruction, integrated into the curriculum, in the skills needed to identify an information need, find, evaluate and organize the information, and use the information effectively.*
- 3. Library media resources and services are available to enhance students' appreciation of reading for enjoyment and life-long learning.*

4. *Library media resources and services are available to students in an environment that promotes inquiry, creativity, self-direction, communication, and the ability to think critically,*
5. *Library media specialists use a collection development plan to guide the selection and acquisition of resources to meet the curricular and personal information needs of students.*
6. *Library media specialists participate in developing networks for the sharing of resources and services.*
7. *School library media resources are included in local, state, and regional databases.*
8. *Library media specialists participate in the development and implementation of on-site and community-based teaming experiences.*

### ***Priority Area B: Intellectual Freedom***

*AASL will promote efforts to ensure that every student has intellectual access to information and a broad range of ideas in an atmosphere of free inquiry and confidentiality.*

#### *Goals*

1. *All students are guaranteed access to information and ideas regardless of the format or viewpoint of the presentation. A selection*

policy adopted by the school board that incorporates the principles of the "Library Bill of Rights" and its interpretation for schools, "Access to Resources and Services in the School Library Media Program," ensures this access.

2. Each school uses a collection development plan, which includes the district selection policy, that is developed with wide participation from the school and community.

3. All schools develop, adopt, and follow clearly defined procedures for handling complaints and requests for reconsideration of materials in library media collections.

4. All students are afforded the right to privacy concerning information requested or received, and materials consulted, borrowed, or acquired.

5. The school community, as well as parents and the general public, understand the importance of intellectual freedom and are committed to protecting the integrity of the library media collection.

6. AASL and the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom work together to support groups and individuals facing censorship issues and attempts to restrict students' access to information and ideas.

### **Priority Area C: Legislation/Funding**

AASL will promote legislation and funding at all levels to support and further the development of effective library media programs in every

school.

### *Goals*

- 1. Congress consistently approves legislation and funding that supports the goals of access to information and quality education for all individuals, including students.*
- 2. School library media programs are funded by federal, state, and local sources to provide collections that are current, to implement use of appropriate information and education technologies, and to enable participation in resource-sharing or networking opportunities.*
- 3. Library media specialists are well-informed and politically effective in supporting school library media programs.*
- 4. Library media specialists are appropriately included in considerations of educational issues, such as personal accountability, evaluation, salary compensation, career ladders, and competency testing.*
- 5. Information on accreditation and certification, federal and state legislation, and federal, state, and local funding is gathered monitored, analyzed, and disseminated in a timely manner.*
- 6. States' standards require adequate levels of fiscal support, professional and support personnel, materials, equipment, and facilities to support quality library media programs.*

### *Priority Area D: Public Awareness*

*AASL will promote an awareness of the roles of the library media specialist and the value of school library media programs in the educational process to both the educational community and the general public.*

#### *Goals*

- 1. Members of the school community and the general public view the school library media program as an integral part of the educational program.*
- 2. Members of the school community view the library media specialist as a member of the teaching team and an equal partner in the educational process.*
- 3. Members of the school community understand the distinct, but complementary roles of the library media specialist as information specialist, teacher, and instructional consultant.*
- 4. Members of the school community and the general public recognize the necessity of providing adequate resources, both human and material, to ensure a quality school library media program.*
- 5. The resources and services of the library media program are recognized by educators and librarians as an integral part of the community's information resources.*

6. National, regional, and state programs for library development include school library media centers.

7. The similarities and distinctions among segments of the profession, i.e., library media specialist, librarian, and information scientist, are clearly articulated and interpreted to the school community, the library community, and the general public.

### **Priority Area E: Personnel**

AASL will promote the recruitment, education, professional development, role definition, rights, interests, and responsibilities of school library media personnel.

#### *Goals*

1. A clear statement of the roles and responsibilities of the library media specialist is articulated to members of the profession, to school administrators and governing boards, to appropriate agencies and associations, and to the public.

2. Appropriate educational programs for the profession are agreed upon and implemented by institutions preparing library media specialists.

3. All professional school library media positions at both building and district levels are filled by certified library media specialists.

4. All library media specialists, regardless of geographic location, have opportunities to increase their competencies through access to

*readily available credit courses and other educational experiences.*

*5. Library media specialists understand the importance of self-assessment and engage in continuing professional education to improve their competence.*

*6. Library media specialists at the building level participate in a performance appraisal process that is based on their roles of information specialist, teacher, and instructional consultant and that includes setting individual performance objectives.*

*7. Library media specialists have opportunities to develop strong leadership qualities.*

*8. Library media specialists have opportunities to receive recognition for their contributions to education and to their profession, as well as for their personal strengths and talents.*

### ***Priority Area F: School Library Media Program Development***

*AASL will promote school library media program development by assisting library media specialists in developing and delivering library media programs that are responsive to societal, educational, and technological change.*

#### *Goals*

*1. Current national guidelines for school library media programs are widely distributed, promoted, accepted, and implemented.*

2. *Accurate and timely statistics and information on the status of school library media programs are available and widely disseminated.*
3. *National, state, and regional accreditation standards that reflect appropriate program values and elements are widely implemented.*
4. *Quality research in the school library media field is encouraged, coordinated, financially supported, widely disseminated, and used.*
5. *Library media specialists acquire materials and develop strategies useful in assisting diverse and changing student populations.*
6. *Library media specialists have the information needed to design and deliver programs that reflect new trends and developments in learning theory, curriculum, and education.*
7. *Timely and useful information on the trends, potential applications, technical specifications, and evaluations of new technologies for use in school library media programs is available and widely disseminated.*
8. *Library media specialists provide leadership in the selection of appropriate instructional technologies and their integration into the school's curriculum.*
9. *Library media specialists work cooperatively with other types of librarians and information providers to develop programs for all users.*
10. *Library media specialists work with teachers to integrate into*



*the curriculum the development of students' abilities to use information.*

### ***Priority Area G: School Library Media Leadership***

*AASL will promote the strengthening school library media leadership at all levels to ensure that schools, districts, and state and national education and /or library agencies have qualified persons serving in positions of leadership.*

#### *Goals*

- 1. The U.S. Department of Education provides national leadership for school library media programs through its staff of full-time library media specialists who influence federal policy and provide consultant services to the profession.*
- 2. All states provide leadership and coordination for school library media programs through the employment of at least one full-time library media supervisor at the state level.*
- 3. School districts provide full-time administrative library media personnel to lead adequately funded district-level programs.*
- 4. All building-level library media specialists have a district library media supervisor who provides guidance, direction, and consultation.*
- 5. Building-level library media programs are led by qualified library media specialists, designed as department chairpersons or team leaders, who interpret the role of the library media program to all*

members of the school community.

## **AASL ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT GOALS**

In order to effectively address these priorities, AASL must acquire and manage its resources carefully; maintain an organizational structure that encourages participation and responds to the needs and interests of its members; and sustain an autonomous, functional, and collaborative position within ALA.

### **A. AASL Roles and Relationships**

AASL's relationship with ALA, with other units within ALA, and with other professional educational organizations is complex. The role of library media specialists in the educational setting makes alliances with both library and educational organizations desirable and necessary. AASL must maintain its independence and autonomy within ALA to encourage and develop these relationships.

#### *Goals*

1. AASL encourages positive relationships between school library media programs and other library and information agencies, emphasizing cooperative activities and common goals.
2. AASL maintains representation and communication with all appropriate groups within ALA.
3. AASL identifies emerging trends in instructional methods, curriculum, and technology that may impact school library media

programs by establishing effective liaisons with other educational associations.

4. AASL develops active partnerships with other educational associations to promote their members' knowledge about the role and function of school library media programs in education; to gain their support and recognition; and to facilitate cooperative activities.

5. AASL maintains and strengthens its state affiliate structure to facilitate effective communication, to build consensus on professional goals and issues, and to develop cooperative activities to advance the profession.

6. AASL strives to ensure proportional representation of its members within the ALA policy-making structure. 7. The AASL program is continuously evaluated and updated through an on-going planning process.

## **B. AASL Finances**

AASL must have an adequate and stable income to support its program and to meet the needs of its members.

### *Goals*

1. AASL operates from an equitable and stable financial status as a division within ALA.

2. AASL derives an adequate level of income from a variety of sources.

3. All decisions of the Association are made within the context of a realistic financial plan that reflects the programmatic priorities of AASL.

### **C. AASL Human Resources**

AASL must strengthen its membership base and provide an expanding range of programs, publications, activities, and opportunities for the building-level library media specialist. An active and involved membership is central to the health and effectiveness of the association. AASL must develop and nurture leaders to maintain a healthy profession and an effective association.

#### *Goals*

1. AASL's membership base reflects the Association's position as the national voice for library media specialists.
2. Members of AASL are aware of the activities and services of the Association.
3. Potential members of AASL are aware of Association services and major activities.
4. AASL provides activities and services that develop and strengthen the leadership abilities of library media specialists.
5. AASL members have opportunities to contribute to the work of the association through meaningful involvement in the committee and

*governance structure.*