AASL community

Sowing the Seeds of the New AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner

The AASL Standards debuted in October 2007, and have been disseminating throughout profession. There’s more on the way to water and fertilize their growth. The Learning Assessment and Indicators Task Force is nearing the end of its work, the AASL Board accepted the Standards and Guidelines Implementation Task Force’s report in June and the standards are ready to sprout. The Implementation Task Force offers the following suggestions to “plant the seeds” for harvesting the standards for our teaching:


2. Take a deep breath. The new standards were designed to build on and further develop the values and beliefs of Information Power: Building Partnerships for Learning.

3. Start by reading the "Common Beliefs" statements on pages 2 and 3. These are the beliefs upon which the new standards were built. Ask yourself who else in your school has each of those Common Beliefs.

4. Consider convening a book club or discussion group to explore the standards more deeply.

5. If your district already has school library media learning standards, correlate them with the Standards for the 21st Century Learner. Identify areas for professional development.

6. If your district does not yet have school library media learning standards, consider using these standards as a starting point.

7. Prioritize which areas of the standards you will address first if full implementation is not feasible. For example, you might start by addressing the skills only.


9. As you develop new lessons and units, identify the standards, skills, dispositions and responsibilities that you are teaching. It will not be as daunting as it seemed when you were at #1!