

**ALA Executive Board  
2006 Fall Meeting**

**Topic:** **School Libraries Task Force: Implementation Report**

**Action Requested:** Approval

**Proposed Motion:** *The ALA Executive Board accepts Management's implementation recommendations and requests quarterly updates on progress toward implementation of the Task Force recommendations.*

**Action Requested By:** Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director  
Mary W. Ghikas, Senior Associate Executive Director  
Julie A. Walker, Executive Director, AASL

**Date:** 24 October 2006

**Background:**

At the 2006 Annual Conference in New Orleans, the ALA Executive Board voted to accept the School Libraries Task Force report dated June 2006 (2005-2006 EBD#8.3) and directed the ALA Executive Director to develop an implementation plan for the Board's consideration at the Fall 2006 Executive Board meeting.

The attached implementation recommendations were developed by Keith Fiels, Mary Ghikas and Julie Walker. As a preliminary step, the School Libraries Task Force recommendations were compared to ALA Ahead to 2010 and to the current AASL Strategic Plan; areas of overlap are identified on the SLTF Implementation Report. Within the context of ALA and AASL strategic plan, the management working group developed the attached list of implementation recommendations. Overall responsibility for each was assigned to one or more units within ALA. Future updates will provide status information. These updates overlap significantly with strategies in ALA Ahead to 2010 and it may be desirable to combine these two updates in a single document.

Related documents:

2005-2006 EBD#8.0 – ALA School Libraries Task Force – Interim Report  
2005-2006 EBD#8.3 – ALA School Libraries Task Force – Final Report  
2005-2006 CB#52 – ALA School Libraries Task Force – Final Report (“Report to the Executive Board”)

#	RECOMMENDATION	ALA AHEAD TO STRATEGIC PLAN 2010	AASL STRATEGIC PLAN	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS	WHO?	STATUS
A	Establish ALA as a hub of education and two-way communication on school library issues with consistent messages appropriate for a variety of constituencies.	See Goal Area I: I-VI	Advocacy			
A-1	Use the ALA Website to post alerts about current issues, with links to Goal Area I:III.4 background information and definitions of terms.	Goal Area I:III.4 & I:IV.4-5	Advocacy: 1-3			
A-1.1				Establish regular scan for school library issues (e.g. standing search), including (a) legislative issues and (b) funding issues at the federal, state and local levels.	ALA Library/PIO/WO	
A-1.2				Develop a crisis communication plan for threats to school libraries by modifying the existing crisis communication plan for library closings.	EXEC/PIO/AASL	
A-2	Create an open comment box on ALA Website for school librarians to report issues from the field (e.g. school library closings, replacement of librarians with parents or paraprofessionals)	Goal Area I:IV.6				
A-2.1				Create web-based form to collect reports/stories	ITTS/AASL/PIO	
A-2.2				Develop searchable database for reports/stories	ITTS/AASL/PIO	
A-3	Provide downloadable packages of information about school libraries that can be used locally to educate administrators, school board members, parents, teachers, and public officials.	Goal Area I: III.4	Advocacy: 1-3			
A-3.1				AASL will review and update existing materials on the AASL web site	AASL	
A-3.2						
A-4	Develop materials that can be used by state affiliates and chapters in dialogues with higher education institutions within their states to foster the integration of school library media programs into the educational preparation of administrators and teachers.	Goal Area I: I, I-II.1	Advocacy: 1-3			
A-4.1				Issue a call for contribution of resources developed by AASL affiliates, ALA chapters, SLMs	AASL/ALA CRO	
A-4.2				Develop new/expanded materials/packages, based on review of submissions and scan	AASL/CRO/PIO	
A-1.3				Explore opportunities for/potential benefits of partnership with other national educational associations involved in educational preparation of school administrators and teachers	AASL/EXEC	

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B	Support and promote information gathering and research on school libraries.	Goal Area I: I Advocacy			
B-1	Establish regular information gathering and analysis on school libraries (from whatever sources available). Develop a system to gather data on important characteristics of school libraries -- number of school libraries, the required state expenditures on library materials, state certification requirements, state laws concerning school libraries and other data.	Goal I.1.1-5 Advocacy: 1.1; 2.1, 3.1			
B-1.1			AASL is currently developing a survey to gather data on important characteristics of school libraries.	AASL	
B-1.2			Conduct annual survey of state oversight agencies regarding expenditures, certification requirements, and state laws.	ORS	
B-1.3			Bring together existing data. e.g. NCES, SLJ	ORS	
B-2	Gather research on educational policy (e.g. the mandated use of NCES definitions in financial accountability, NCLB delineation of "highly qualified."	Goal I.1.1 Advocacy: 1-1; 2-1; 3-1			
B-2.1					
B-2.2			See B-1.2		
B-3	Promote research in the school library field. Connect to funders (vendors and foundations) on a national level. Facilitate an integrated study into all types of libraries whenever possible.	Goal I.1.1-4; Goal I.V.1 Advocacy: 1.1; 2.1			
B-3.1			Examine where surveys can be generalized to all types of libraries and integrate where appropriate.	ORS	
B-3.2			Based on needs, develop research funding proposal(s); seek funding.	AASL/ORS /DEV	
B-4	Facilitate national research on the effects of school libraries that will be accepted by the U.S. Department of Education (using controlled randomized trials). Provide models, templates, and support for CRT- and other scientifically-based research.	Goal I.1.1-4 Advocacy: 1.1; 2.1			
B-4.1					
B-4.2			Provide models, templates, and support for CRT and other scientifically-based research.	ORS/AASL	
B-4.3			Examine the impact of Library Power 10 years after implementation.	AASL/ORS	
B-5	Publicize, link to, and capitalize on research that is already done (e.g. "Results that Matter" and "Long Overdue"). ALA should provide one-stop linking to research that is related to aspects of school libraries.	Goal I.1.3-5 Advocacy: 1.3; 2.3; 3.3			
B-5.1			Integrate research into advocacy.	PIO/AASL	
B-5.2			Build robust research website, including links to KCL studies, etc.	ORS	

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C	Support the implementation of national standards and guidelines for school library media programs.	Goal Area I	Guidelines & Standards; Advocacy			
C-1	Advocate on the national level about the importance of professional prepared librarians in each school library.	Goal I:IV.1 and V:1-3	Advocacy, 1-3	<i>Build into key messages and legislative agenda.</i>	WO/PIO	
C-1.1						
C-1.2						
C-2	Advocate on the national level about the importance of using national standards and guidelines in the development and improvement of school library media programs.	Goal I:IV.1 and V:1-3; also Goal Area III: V:1-3	Advocacy, 1-3	<i>Incorporate Information Power concepts into messages and advocacy programs</i>	AASL/PIO/NO	
C-2.1						
C-2.2						
C-3	Support AASL in the continuing development of national standards and guidelines, including the development of consistent terminology.	Goal I:1.4	Guide/Std: 1.1-2			
C-3.1				<i>Facilitate internal discussion re. terminology, e.g. critical thinking, ICT skills, information literacy, etc.</i>		MPS
C-3.2						

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D	Support a School Library Leadership Initiative.	Goal Areas I & II	Professional Development; Advocacy			
D-1	Establish a template for ongoing professional development on school library leadership within the educational environment.	Goal I:II.1-5 & Goal IV:IV.4	PD: 1.1-3			
D-1.1				Increase awareness of existing AASL programs.	AASL/MEMB	
D-1.2				Incorporate SLM leadership into development of association-wide leadership training proposal(s).	EXEC/MPS	
D-2	Use school library leaders to develop strategic plans and models for converting administrators and teachers into library advocates.	Goal I:IV.1-4	PD: 3.1-3; Advocacy 3.2-3			
D-2.1				Examine existing models and modify as necessary, e.g. Lawyers for Libraries, Advocacy Institute	AASL/PIO/OJIF	
D-2.2						
D-3	Sponsor training seminars and develop materials to prepare school library media specialists to make presentations to school administrators, school boards, parent groups, and graduate education classes for administrators and teachers.	Goal I:IV.4-5	Advocacy: 3.2-3			
D-3.1				Increase awareness of existing AASL programs.	AASL/MEMB	
D-3.2						

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E	Strengthen Professional Preparation	Goal Area II & IV	Guidelines & Standards; Influence within ALA; Community			
E-1	Coordinate efforts among LIS programs; form an alliance with ALISE and NCATE to provide consistently high standards in school librarian preparation and expand opportunities for acquiring the advanced degree.	Goal II: 1.1-3	G&S: 1.1-2			
E-1.1				Meet with NCATE faculty attending ALISE in 2007	Ghikas	
E-1.2						
E-2	Assist AASL in recruiting school librarians to the profession.	Goal IV: II.4 & IV:III. 1-4				
E-2.1						
E-2.2				Coordinate between HRDR and AASL recruitment websites Review Infonation website for additional concepts	AASL/HRDR AASL/HRDR	
E-3	Collaborate with AASL to recruit school librarians to membership in ALA and AASL.	Goal IV:IV.2 & Goal V & Goal VI:VI.2 & VI:VI.5	Influence: 1.2-3, 6; 7; 2.1-3; Community: 1.1-2; 2.1-2			
E-3.1				Develop student chapters in NCATE-accredited programs.	MEMB/CRO /AASL	
E-3.2				Develop online programs for student chapters	AASL/ MEMB	

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F	Develop an ALA advocacy campaign that emphasizes the strengths and answers the needs of school libraries.	Goal Area I	Advocacy; Guidelines & Standards; Influence within ALA			
F-1	Build a strong connection to the educational world in all school library advocacy materials, including targeting national organizations of principals, superintendents, school boards, and parent-teacher groups.	Goal I:1.5; Goal I:1.1-4; Goal I:IV.1-3	Advocacy: 1-3		WO/AASL	
F-1.1				Increase interaction between ALA and the education community, e.g. Committee for Education funding.	WO/AASL	
F-1.2				Seek mission-appropriate partnership programs to build strong ties with education-based associations.	WO/AASL/PIO	
F-1/3				Increase the visibility of school library media specialists.	PIO/AASL	
F-1.4				Support AASL's efforts through the Partnership for 21st Century Skills.	EXEC/PIO	
F-2	Establish connections between types of libraries in advocacy materials. For example, the new study of public libraries ("Long Overdue") identifies the need for more services to teens in public libraries. By advocating for a strong connection between school and public libraries, ALA can demonstrate strong library support for teens. Both school and public libraries are enhanced by this approach.	Goal I:IV & V	Advocacy: 1.3; 2.3; 3.3			
F-2.1				Draw explicit connections between types of libraries in terms of shared audiences, mission impact (i.e. between school/academic, school/public libraries).	PIO	
F-2.2				Advocate for a strong connection between public and school libraries, particularly in service to teens.	PIO	
F-3	Advocate for state support of school libraries, both at state departments of education and at state libraries (funding, programming, state coordinator of school libraries, collection of school library statistics).		Advocacy: 1-3			
F-3.1				Build support for school libraries into the legislative agenda.	WO/COL	
F-3.2				Build a support network including ALA chapters/AASL affiliates and other related organizations.	CRO/AASL	
F-4	Advocate for the aspects of school libraries that answer the needs of their constituencies (e.g. students need 21st century skills that are taught by school librarians).	Goal I:II	Advocacy: 1-3			
F-4.1				Develop advocacy messages based on research and policy (e.g. P21).	PIO/AASL /YALSA /ALSC	
F-4.2				Spread advocacy messages through network.	PIO/AASL / YALSA / ALSC/ CRO	
F-5	Advocate for the power of school libraries to address the literacy and reading motivation needs of young people.	Goal I:II; Goal III:1.1-2	Advocacy: 1-3; G&S: 2			
F-6	Advocate for increased and equitable funding for school libraries.	Goal I:IV.1-7	Advocacy: 1-3			

F-7	<p>Begin a 21st century school library campaign emphasizing the way school libraries meet the needs of 21st century learners. (Areas to emphasize might include technology, cybersafety, information literacy skills, innovative patron services like wikis and blogs, resources and services for English Language Learners.)</p>	Advocacy: 1-3	See F-1.4, F-4.1, F-4.2	DEVAASL PIO/AASL
F-8 F-8.1 F-8.2	<p>Produce PSA videos highlighting the role of school libraries and librarians in the information-rich society for parent meetings, family channels, and cable TV programming.</p>	Advocacy: 1.3; 2.3, 3.3	<p>Develop proposal for sponsorship or other external funding. Based on funding, develop and disseminate PSA.</p>	DEVAASL PIO/AASL
F-9	<p>Advocate for school libraries within ALA, so that all members of the Association have an understanding of the role and mission of school libraries.</p>	Influence: 2	Goal I:II.4 & Goal VI:1.9 & Goal VI:IV	EXEC UNIT MGRS
F-9.1	<p>[Redacted content]</p>	Influence: 2	Seek type-of-library diversity in appointments.	EXEC UNIT MGRS
F-9.2		Influence: 2	Review internal references and language. To increase type of library inclusiveness.	AL, EXEC, PIO VAR UNITS, PIO
F-9.3		Influence: 2	Ensure the school libraries are included in regular communications to members, e.g. American Libraries, AL Direct, various reports	AL, EXEC, PIO VAR UNITS, PIO
F-9.4	<p>[Redacted content]</p>	Influence: 2	Review recurring programs for inclusive timing, language and materials -- e.g. Library Card Sign-Up, Banned Books Week.	AL, EXEC, PIO VAR UNITS, PIO



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G	Develop a legislative agenda and lobbying efforts to respond to specific school library needs.	Goal Area III	Influence within ALA; Advocacy			
G-1	Monitor federal legislation on education as well as libraries. Implement the legislative agenda developed in the Washington Office. Alert school library members when any legislation that is pending may affect school libraries.	Goal III:V & Goal III:VII & Goal I:IV & Goal I:V	Influence: 1-2; Advocacy: 1.1	See F-1.1, F-3.2		
G-2	Maintain a close watch on state initiatives through the states and provide state associations and members with talking points, strategies and templates for combating the threat.	Goal I:V.1-3	Advocacy: 2.1-5	See F-1.1, F-3.2		
G-3	Lobby for federal legislation that provides funding earmarked for school libraries.	Goal I:IV & V	Influence: 1-2; Advocacy: 1.1-5	See F-3.1		
G-4	Lobby for inclusion of funding for school libraries in existing legislation.	Goal I:V	Influence: 1-2; Advocacy: 1-3	See F-3.1		
G-5	Develop national and state legislative lobbying through a collaboration among ALA Washington Office, state chapters and AASL affiliates.	Goal I: IV & V	Advocacy: 1-2	See F-1.1, F-3.2		
G-6	Establish ongoing dialogue with regional accreditation associations (e.g. North Central) about school library issues.	Goal I: III				
G-6.1				Explore possible connections.	O/A/AASL	
G-6.2				Build working relationships.	O/A/AASL	