About the Report

A Paradigm Shift for Libraries
The report calls on libraries to make fundamental changes that impact all areas of libraries. Now is the time for school leaders to consider what this shift means for their own library, including but not limited to:
- collections
- teaching methods
- space
- staffing models

Why Focus on School Libraries and Teens
- Libraries provide vital access to information and technology that supports student academic achievement.
- School and public libraries bridge the intersection between formal and informal learning.
- Teens are entering the workforce without critical skills. Libraries can help teens build 21st century skills, content knowledge and expertise.
- Teens today face significant social issues and problems that school libraries can help them address.
- Technology continues to impact communication methods, teaching, and learning. Some schools have implemented Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) programs, yet socioeconomic status still has an impact on access to technology at home.

Opportunity to Increase Impact
By embracing the changes called for in the report, school leaders can enable their library to
- Tap into new funding streams aimed at teen issues in the areas of after-school programming, STEM, career readiness and more
- Address a critical community need, thereby positioning their library as an indispensable community resource

You can make a difference
- Become familiar with and adopt YALSA’s national guidelines, position papers, and issue briefs.
- Set and communicate a vision for library services for and with students, reinforce it through supports (including adequate funding for resources and staff), and hold all library staff accountable for high-quality programs and service.
- Support school librarians in playing a leadership role in providing appropriate training for faculty.
- Look critically at policies and procedures that prevent outside partners or community members from working with the library to deliver relevant services for and with students.
- Support opportunities for development of persistent spaces in which students can pursue their interests surrounded by their peers, caring adults, and the technology they are comfortable with.
- Build both organizational capacities and staff competencies with new and emerging forms of technology, looking critically at which can be added to the library to support learning.
- Ensure that a vision for services for and with teens is integrated into the overall school mission and goals and that libraries are a fundamental element and resource for each public school.

Additional resources
- Visit the National Forum on Libraries and Teens web site to access free materials, including the full report and executive summary as well as archived webinars: www.ala.org/yaforum/
- Visit YALSA’s web site for standards and guidelines for teen services: www.ala.org/yalsa/guidelines
- Explore resources specifically for school libraries at www.ala.org/aasl