Policy Statement:
The AASL Beyond Words grants provide grants to public schools whose school library program has been affected by a disaster. School library programs that have experienced a 90% or greater loss to the school library program are eligible to apply for additional funding of a catastrophic award.

Focus: Members

Purpose: To outline the process for submission and selection of AASL Beyond Words Catastrophic Award recipients.

Procedure:
1. The following criteria must be met in order to apply:
   a) A public school with a pre-existing school library
   b) Within 36 months from the date of the disaster
   c) 20 miles from a Dollar General store
   d) Replacing or supplementing books, media, or library equipment (note: furniture and shelving are not permissible purchases with grant funds)
   e) A certified school librarian, or the presence of a certified school librarian at the campus, district, or regional level that will be involved in purchasing decisions
   f) Able to spend the funds within 180 days of receipt
   g) Able to submit a report, with receipts, to show how the funds were allocated
2. Applications will only be accepted using the online form.
3. The following criteria will be used in the selection process:
   - Impact on school library program
   - Damage to school library collection
   - Use of funds
   - Budget outline
   - Extenuating or unique circumstances
   - Staffing level
4. The Beyond Words jury will:
   a) Judge nominees utilizing a standardized scoring rubric
   b) Vote on the nominee(s) prior to May 1 of each year
5. The chair of the jury, in coordination with the board and staff liaison, will announce the award winner in the form of an Information Report at the Spring Executive Committee meeting.
8. The recipient will be sent a congratulatory letter from the AASL President.
9. All candidates that were not successful in receiving the grant will be sent a notification letter from the AASL President.

10. AASL Headquarters will prepare the award, which includes:

- Press release
- Recognition in Awards Ceremony material
- Recognition in *Knowledge Quest* and *Hotlinks*