



Association for Library Service to Children

# Strategic Plan

2023–2026





# About ALSC

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association, is the world's largest organization dedicated to the support and enhancement of exemplary library service to children. Driven by its 3,300+ members, ALSC is a dynamic force for positive change.



## OUR VISION

Members of the Association for Library Service to Children engage communities to build healthy, successful futures for all children.



## OUR CORE VALUES

Collaboration

Excellence

Inclusiveness

Innovation

Integrity &  
Respect

Leadership

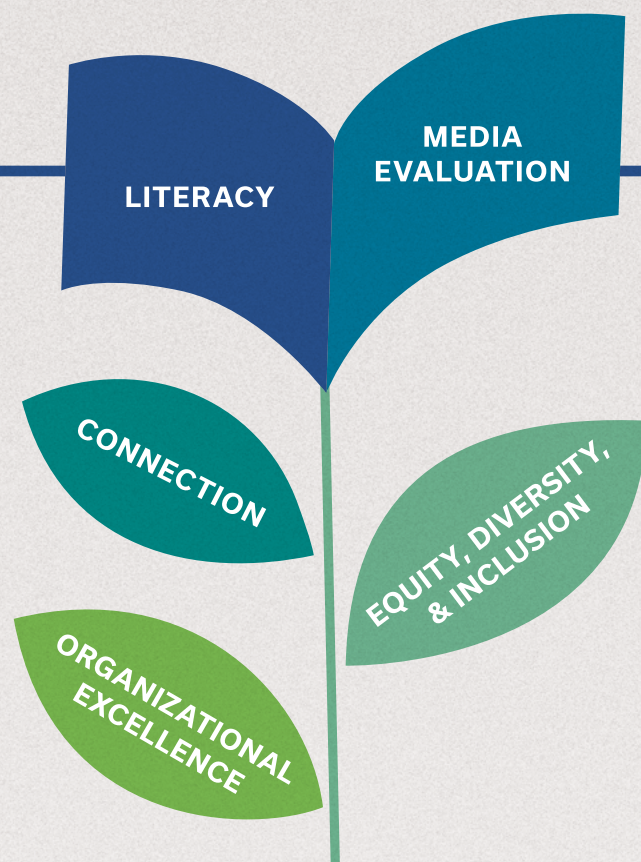
Responsiveness





# Areas of Strategic Focus

Our strategic work focuses on **literacy** and **media evaluation** as it relates to children from birth to age 14. To ensure that this work in literacy and media evaluation meets our core values and positively affects all children, we also focus internally on work that centers on **connection**; **equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI)**; and **organizational excellence**.



## Literacy

ALSC supports the spectrum of literacies necessary for lifelong learning and success, including but not limited to pre-literacy, early literacy, family literacy, media literacy, technology literacy, computational thinking, STEM, and maker-centered learning.

## Media evaluation

ALSC evaluates and recognizes the content, credibility, artistic merit, and cultural respect of media for children in all genres and formats, with intellectual freedom at the heart of our work.

## Connection

ALSC offers clear, welcoming, and accessible pathways for members to contribute to the work of the organization and the profession.

## EDI

ALSC prioritizes equity, diversity, and inclusion in our decisions and services, with healthy, successful futures for all children at the center.

## Organizational Excellence

ALSC is a trusted and efficient organization fundamental to the library profession.



# Implementation

ALSC will implement our 2023–2026 Strategic Plan through a combination of **overarching commitments**, **strategic initiatives**, and **member-driven work**.



## Overarching Commitments

- All Association work includes an EDI goal and/or lens.
- Committee work and charges are evaluated and prioritized regularly.
- The Association has sustainable, diverse revenue streams.
- Opportunities for engagement are multimodal.

## Strategic Initiatives

- Prioritizing culturally diverse committees that are supported by diverse appointments advisory committees and transparency about the appointments process
- Building and bolstering strong relationships with mission-aligned organizations that are part of the ecosystem of children, literacy, and libraries
- Identifying and implementing strong communication practices across the Association
- Offering a mentorship program that supports members across different career levels and library types, with connections across shared experiences
- Developing and providing strong cultural competency training and support, in particular related to media evaluation
- Producing and publishing a landmark guide for libraries to support emerging readers using evidence-based strategies

## Member-Driven Work

The ALSC Board of Directors annually reviews progress on all work related to the strategic plan and prioritizes the activities for process committees and project work groups to align with our areas of strategic focus. ALSC relies on the expertise and direct efforts of our members who serve on process and awards committees, task forces, and work groups, with support from ALSC leadership and staff, to advance the Association in our work.