Policy No: A-18  
Subject: AASL Communities*

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Effective Date: June 27, 2015
Revision Date(s): 
Review Date(s): 
Review Responsibility: AASL Bylaws and Organization Committee, AASL Board of Directors

Policy Statement:  
AASL communities provide an avenue for the exchange of information and ideas related to the school library profession.

Focus:  
AASL Members

Purpose:  
To ensure the acceptable use of communication across all AASL communities.

Supportive Documentation:  
Definitions:

1. AASL Communities: any in-person or online gathering of members for the exchange of information (e.g. ALA Connect, AASL Member Forum, AASL social media)
2. Commercial activity: an activity or material that involves the buying and selling of goods, products, or services.

Procedure:

1. AASL communities enable members to pose questions, share resources, discuss current issues and trends in the profession, and support one another.
2. Participants are regulated by the ALA Online Code of Conduct and the ALA Statement of Appropriate Conduct.
3. Acceptable exchanges include but are not limited to:
   a. Commercial recommendations as a response to a professional inquiry are permitted (e.g., a request for a book recommendation for a lesson, or new vendor recommendation for a particular service)
   b. School library job openings
   c. School library-related professional development opportunities
      i. All AASL or AASL Chapters sponsored events
ii. Other events must meet the following criteria:
   1. Event is provided by a credible organization
   2. Event does not conflict with any AASL, AASL Chapters, or affiliated events
   3. Event is free

4. Unacceptable exchanges include but are not limited to:
   a. Unsolicited commercial recommendations (e.g., posting a recently published book or solicitation to subscribe to a publication or service)
   b. Commercial materials which are distributed or displayed outside a presenter’s session and/or the exhibit hall.

5. The following steps will be taken by AASL Headquarters when a violation has occurred:
   a. The individual who posted a commercial posting will be notified that such postings are not permitted. If the AASL member continues to ignore AASL policy, the individual will be removed from the AASL Member Forum.
   b. Commercial materials placed in session rooms or open areas of conference will be removed.
   c. Individuals soliciting AASL attendees outside of the conference exhibit hall will be asked to leave the conference.

*This revised policy incorporates the positions and procedures of Policy No: A-14: Publication of Educational Events as of March 2023.*