



Division Report to ALA Council and ALA Executive Board

American Association of School Librarians

In June of 2019, the AASL Board of Directors reaffirmed the mission of the association and adopted a new strategic plan. New in 2020 are the plan's vision, core values, and strategic goals. This report is organized around the strategic goals.

Mission. The American Association of School Librarians empowers leaders to transform teaching and learning.

Vision. Every school librarian is a leader; every learner has a school librarian.

Core Values: Learning; Innovation; Equity, Diversity, Inclusion; Intellectual Freedom; Collaboration

Goals:

Leadership Activation. AASL builds capacity for leadership at all levels.

1.1 Refine existing participation models.

Revised bylaws to streamline governance, improve decision-making, and result in deeper member engagement on the board. The new board will consist of 9 elected members rather than 19 elected members.

1.2 Increase alternative participation models.

Hosted president's office hours three times (December 3, 2019, February 6, 2019, May 14, 2020) to focus conversation on issues related to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Launched a town hall series "The Show Must Go On(online)," beginning March 24, 2020, to give school library professionals the opportunity to gather as a community and discuss the impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on schools, educators, and learners. The series, hosted by AASL's president Mary Keeling, immediate past president Kathryn Roots Lewis, or president elect Kathy Carroll, ran through May 29, 2020 and was attended by 1,900 participants.

Published, in partnership with ALA Editions, a six-book series offering an immersive and dedicated study of the Shared Foundations that anchor the "National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries." Each book is authored by an AASL member. For many, this is their first published book. The books and authors include:

- *Inquire* by Lori Donovan. Fall 2019.
- *Include* by Julie Stivers. Spring 2020.
- *Collaborate* by Mary Catherine Coleman. Fall 2019.
- *Curate* by Len Bryan. Spring 2020.
- *Explore* by Sarah Searles. Summer 2020.
- *Engage*. Summer 2020.

1.3 Increase opportunities for state and local leaders to enhance their leadership capacity.

In January 2020, approved the Mississippi Association of School Librarians (MsASL) as a chapter of AASL. MsASL is the 51st state or regional school library association to affiliate as an AASL chapter. Released “Developing Inclusive Learners and Citizens Activity Guide,” which contains reflection activities and resources based on Include, one of the six Shared Foundations of AASL’s *National School Library Standards*. The guide, developed by the 2019 ALA Emerging Leaders team consisting of Corey Hall, Matthew King, Beth Raff, Jhenelle Robinson, and Bianca Spurlock, with AASL member guide Robert Hilliker, can be downloaded at standards.aasl.org/project/inclusive.

Released a new toolkit to help position school librarians in efforts to create and curate open educational resources (OER) that will extend their role as leaders within their schools. The OER Toolkit, created by a task force chaired by Lori Donovan, is freely available for download at www.ala.org/aasl/toolkits.

Released two crosswalks aligning National School Library Standards to other national standards.

- Crosswalk to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and accompanying how-to-read document were created by a task force chaired by Deborah Rinio and are available as free downloadable and printable PDFs on the [AASL Standards Portal](#).
- Crosswalk to Google’s CS First Curriculum. The crosswalk and accompanying statement of alignment, created by a task force chaired by Cynthia Zervos, are downloadable. The printable PDFs are available on the [AASL Standards Portal](#).

Published

- *Content-Area Collaborations for Secondary Grades*, by Liz Deskins.
- *Leadership: Strategic Thinking, Decision Making, Communication, and Relationship Building* Ann M. Martin and Kathleen Riopelle Roberts.

Awarded four planning grants to State Chapters. The \$2,500 grants, awarded in honor of AASL past presidents, are presented annually to AASL Chapters for the planning and execution of an event, initiative, or activity focused on the implementation of AASL’s *National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries*. Recipients, donors, and honorees include:

- Association of Indiana School Library Educators (AISLE) is the recipient of the planning grant awarded in honor of Carl A. Harvey II and sponsored by Roger and Susan D. Ballard.
- Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL) is the recipient of the planning grant awarded in honor of Retta Patrick and sponsored by Cassandra Barnett.
- Vermont School Library Association (VSLA) is the recipient of the planning grant awarded in honor of Gail K. Dickinson and sponsored by Roger and Susan D. Ballard.
- Wyoming Library Association School Library Interest Group (WLA-SLIG) is the recipient of the planning grant awarded in honor of Sharon Coatney and sponsored by Edward M. and Helen R. Adams.

Partnered with StoryCorps to launch [StoryCorps Connect](#), a new free platform that allows Americans to conduct and record StoryCorps interviews remotely. AASL encourages school librarians to utilize the technology to support learners in connecting with others amidst the COVID-

19 pandemic and, in the process, to contribute to the creation of a unique first-person historical record of this unprecedented crisis.

Presidents represented AASL at state chapter meetings, sharing information about AASL support for school librarians and other topics as requested by the chapter.

- South Dakota Library Association- Mary Keeling, September 26-27, 2019
- Oregon Association of School Libraries - Mary Keeling, October 10-11, 2019
- Association of Illinois School Library Educators - Kathy Carroll, October 10-11, 2019
- Mississippi Library Association - Mary Keeling, October 23-25, 2019
- South Carolina Association of School Librarians - Kathryn Roots Lewis, March 5-7, 2020

1.4 Cultivate AASL leadership involvement throughout ALA.

Selected Nick Weingardt of Denver Colorado and Jamie Becker of Wright City, MO to represent AASL in ALA's 2020 class of Emerging Leaders.

President Mary Keeling co-presented in ALA Webinar "The Library Community Moving Forward in the New Normal" on June 4, 2020.

President Mary Keeling contributed to "Reflections on Race and Racism: ALA affiliate and division leaders speak out," *American Libraries the Scoop Blog*. June 5, 2020.

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/reflections-on-race-and-racism/>

Education Policy. AASL influences local, state, and national policy to ensure that school libraries are well-funded and fully staffed with full-time, certified school librarians and dedicated support personnel.

2.1 Increase ALA's understanding of and action on education policy issues that impact school librarians.

Provided feedback to ALA's Public Policy Office on draft legislation, letters of support for the role of school libraries in education.

Met with ALA's Public Policy Office to determine an agenda for school library advocacy with legislators and policy makers, September 5-7, 2019.

2.2 Influence funding entities to include school libraries and school librarians as leaders in transformative teaching and learning.

Past president Steven Yates, Immediate past president Kathryn Roots Lewis, and President Mary Keeling participated in ALA's Legislative Fly-In, February 9-11, 2020.

With Wanda K. Brown, co-signed and sent 13 letters of support for school libraries and school librarians to state and local boards of education.

2.3 Enhance member understanding of how education policy issues impact practice.

President Mary Keeling participated in a planning retreat hosted by University North Carolina-Greensboro and North Carolina School Library Media Association to develop a school library advocacy plan for the state of North Carolina, August 1-3, 2019.

2.4 Enhance administrator understanding of school libraries within local, state, and national education policy.

Selected seven school administrators to serve on the AASL School Leader Collaborative. The "AASL School Leader Collaborative: Administrators & School Librarians Transforming Teaching and Learning" is a two-year initiative that aims to strengthen AASL's collaboration with school administrators. This initiative champions the school librarian's integral role in teaching and learning.

This work is chaired by Kathryn Roots Lewis, immediate past president, with support from OverDrive Education. This group

- Meets monthly with AASL leadership to advise on messaging and advocacy
- Presented a workshop for other administrators at AASL's national conference in Louisville, KY
- Provided guidance on a series of interview questions for administrators to use in hiring or coaching school librarians
- Provide quotes for an advocacy video

Partnered with *Accessibility, Compliance, and Equity (AC&E)*. Published six times a year, and distributed through 24 associations, AC&E is a digital journal focused entirely on educational equity and access. Through this journal, the Presidential Task Force demonstrated how school librarians are equity leaders in their schools.

Articles

- ["Advancing EDI Through the School Library," by Mary Keeling, Nov-Dec 2019, p. 35.](#)
- [**Developing Inclusive Learners and Citizens Infographic, Nov-Dec 2019, p. 36-37.**](#)
- [**School Libraries For All Students, by Kathy Lester, Jan-Feb 2020, p.54.**](#)

Education Talk Radio podcasts

- [Empowering student readers with a school library diverse collection](#)
- [Your school library : leaders in inclusion, equity & diversity:](#)

Research. AASL advances research that informs school librarian practice.

3.1 Facilitate evidence-informed school librarian practices.

A record number of attendees, 2,500, attended the 2019 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) National Conference, Nov. 14 – 16, at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville. The conference featured keynotes by Ellen Oh, co-founder of "We Need Diverse Books" Dr. Adolph Brown III, an urban educator and researcher; and author Jarrett J. Krosoczka. Over two hundred school administrators attended with their school librarians. The event brought together school librarians, administrators, authors and exhibitors at the only national conference dedicated solely to the needs of school librarians. Attendees participated in preconference workshops, author events, and more than 150 concurrent sessions that focused on common beliefs central to the school library profession, such as research, literacy, advocacy, and diversity. AASL's National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries influenced all conference programming.

Thirty American Association of School Librarians (AASL) members were awarded \$750 travel grants to attend their first AASL national conference. Grant supported by Bound to Stay Bound.

At its August 2019 meeting, the Specialized Professional Associations Standards committee of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) approved the "[ALA/AASL Standards for Initial Preparation of School Librarians](#)" prepared and presented by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). The revised standards were prepared under the direction and guidance of April Dawkins and Gail Dickinson.

3.2 Increase visibility of research related to school librarians.

3.3 Communicate research findings to practitioners and other leaders.

The Educators of School Librarians (ESLS) Section of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) announces the recipients of the 2019 AASL Research Grant. Sponsored by *School Library Connection*, the grant recognizes excellence in manuscripts addressing a persistent and recurring challenge in the field of school librarianship. Grant recipients are

- Sue C. Kimmel and Danielle E. Hartsfield for their article "Does ALA Ban Books? Examining the Discourse of Challenged Books," published July 2019 in *Library Quarterly*.
- April Dawkins and Karen Gavigan for their article "E-Book Collections in High School Libraries: Factors Influencing Circulation and Usage," published April 2019 in *School Library Research*.
- Heather Moorefield-Lang for "Lessons Learned: Intentional Implementation of Second Makerspaces," published February 2019 in *Reference Services Review*.

School Library Research published

- Sarah Cray's article, "Secondary Teacher Perceptions and Openness to Change Regarding Instruction in Information Literacy Skills."
- *an article by Sue Kimmel, Marcia Mardis, Shana Pribesh, Laura Pasquini, Barbara Schultz-Jones, Faye Jones, Lois Wine, and Lenese Colson that examines the question, "how do we define a high-quality school librarian?"*
- "School Librarian Interventions for New-Teacher Resilience: A CLASS II Field Study," by Rita Soulen.

Hosted *Research Practitioner Partnerships (RPPs) in School Library Research: The Third CLASS Summit* on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020, in Philadelphia (PA) prior to the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting. A report of the CLASS II research conducted to date was available for peer review and comment.

Other

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) formally commended twelve events and programs for their support of the school librarian profession and the learners the profession serves, as recommended by AASL's Chapter Assembly. To be considered for this honor, programs must align with AASL's "National School Library Standards" and the principles expressed in the association's mission and value statements.