

225 N. Michigan Avenue  
Suite 1300  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
USA

Telephone 312 944 6780  
Toll Free 800 545 2433  
E-mail: [ala@ala.org](mailto:ala@ala.org)  
[www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)

# ALA American Library Association

November 30, 2021

Connecticut State Board of Education  
450 Columbus Blvd.  
Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Benham, and Board of Education members:

Accelerate CT articulates a vision that weds innovation with conventional wisdom to center equity and reimagine education. It is fitting, then, that Connecticut's State Board of Education has this opportunity to leverage *National School Library Standards* to accelerate that vision and help every student achieve success in and beyond the classroom. We urge the Board to adopt *National School Library Standards* during your December meeting.

Connecticut's *Information and Technology Literacy Framework* was adopted in 2006, at a time when the education and information landscapes looked quite different than they do today. At that time, students learned to be informed consumers of information to further their educational and personal development. YouTube and Facebook were in their infancy; sales of laptops had just begun to outpace desktop computers; and the iPhone had not yet been introduced.

Today, students confront a complex and ever-shifting flow of information from sources beyond the control of home or school, and the ability to navigate that information has profound consequences for their well-being and success. As the schools' only certified information professionals, school librarians are uniquely qualified to develop student competencies that allow them to meet this challenge.

*National School Library Standards* provide the forward-looking framework upon which those competencies are built. Librarians offer equitable access to resources and embed information literacy across the curriculum for authentic, inquiry-based, personalized learning experiences. The framework aligns with content area and technology standards and facilitates students' examination of diverse perspectives and experiences; collaboration towards individual and common goals; curation of resources for personal and academic growth; reflective practices that nurture exploration and innovation; and capable and ethical use of information technologies.

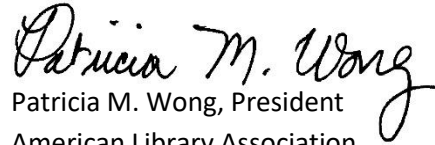
The good news is that many schools in Connecticut already have exemplary school libraries led by librarians who deliver standards-based instruction via evidenced-based best practices. Further, the Connecticut Association of School Librarians is your state-based professional organization and a proven partner in identifying and sharing those best practices, and in offering a range of professional development that includes standards implementation.


By adopting updated school library standards, you are demonstrating your commitment to equity, where exemplary practices become the norm. You are also making a commitment to Connecticut's educational, economic, and civic future: one where residents have the skills and dispositions necessary

**LIBRARIES  
TRANSFORM™**

to continue learning, independently and collaboratively; to be adaptable, capable and ethical curators of information; and to be engaged and informed community members. Your school librarians are vital partners in that effort. We thank you for including this important item on your December agenda and urge you to adopt *National School Library Standards* so that the promise of a Connecticut education can be fully realized by every learner.

Sincerely,

  
Patricia M. Wong, President  
American Library Association

  
Jennisen Lucas, President  
American Association of School Librarians

cc: Melissa Thom, President, Connecticut Association of School Librarians  
Colleen Bailie, President, Connecticut Library Association