

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Annual Meeting, Las Vegas  
June 26 – July 1, 2014

**Topic:** Establish a Competencies Update Taskforce

**Background:** YALSA’s Competencies Serving Youth, updated on a regular basis since their creation in 1981, describe the necessary skills and knowledge for library staff members to serve teens successfully through schools and public libraries. Since the most recent revision in 2010, the Board has adopted a report entitled *The Future of Library Service for and with Teens: A Call to Action* which describes the shifting landscape of today’s teens and a necessary “paradigm shift” for libraries and teen services. The Board will want to consider an update to YALSA’s Competencies Serving Youth in order to adequately reflect the professional transitions described in the report. In June the YALSA Board, via its space in ALA Connect, discussed the recommendation and voted to approve it. Including the item as a part of this meeting simply ensures it will be entered into the official record of the association.

**Action Required: Consent**

---

**Proposal:** Establish a Competencies Update Taskforce

**Rationale:** *The Future of Library Service for and with Teens* report calls for significant changes in the overall role of teen services professionals in libraries. Rather than acting as “experts,” teen services staff will need to develop the necessary skills to serve as facilitators, connectors, and community partners. According to the report “One skill in particular stood out in which more support for library staff serving teens is needed—advocacy and the soft skills needed to succeed in getting results for the teens they work with, including building support, documenting success, and communicating with stakeholders.”

Although the existing competencies may allude to skills described in the report, a Competencies Update Taskforce dedicated to reprioritization and full alignment would insure that this important member resource adequately reflects the *Call to Action*.

**Proposed Charge for the Competencies Updates Taskforce:** Review the current document called "Young Adults Deserve the Best: Competencies for Librarians Serving Youth" and update the language and content, as needed, to ensure it reflects the mission and core values of teens services as described in *The Future of Library Service for and*

*With Teens: A Call to Action.* Provide a draft by December 15th for the Midwinter meeting in January, a revised draft for the Spring Executive meeting, and submit a final report with recommended changes for Board consideration by Annual 2015. Taskforce size: 5 – 7 virtual members, including the Chair. Term of service: August 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

**Proposed Action:** direct the President to establish a Competencies Update Taskforce as outlined above.

**Additional Resources**

- Competencies for Librarians Serving Youth (2010):  
[www.ala.org/yalsa/guidelines/yacompetencies2010](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/guidelines/yacompetencies2010)
- The Future of Library Services for and with Teens: a Call to Action:  
[www.ala.org/yaforum/future-library-services-and-teens-project-report](http://www.ala.org/yaforum/future-library-services-and-teens-project-report)