

(514 words)

## **Welcome to Your National School Library Standards**

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After almost three years of research, writing, planning, and development, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) released refreshed standards for learners, school librarians, and school libraries at its National Conference in Phoenix, AZ in November 2017. Much will be familiar: six Common Beliefs outline core values of our profession; domains of practice are organized with the familiar terms Think, Create, Share, and Grow; and the roles of the school librarian remain. However, librarians will see subtle shifts. An emphasis on personalized learning reflects current educational trends. The librarian's responsibility to foster respect and appreciation for people from different cultures expands upon our traditional commitment to representing diverse perspectives in our collections. As we curate resources for our community of educators and learners, we also lead learners to curate resources that have personal meaning for them.

The standards are framed around several core concepts. In addition to the Common Beliefs mentioned above, six Shared Foundations define the values and practices of our profession. The meaning of Shared Foundation is elaborated upon by a Key Commitment, a brief statement. Competencies in each Shared Foundation are organized in four domains: Think, Create, Share, and Grow. Integrated standards frameworks for learners, school librarians, and school libraries show how the parts are interrelated. School library domains and alignments facilitate the key commitment to and competencies of each Shared Foundation. The language of competencies emphasizes the growth mindset inherent in the standards, which recognize that all are learners, including school librarians and other educators as well as students.

The complete, integrated standards and supporting materials are available in a book, *National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries* (ALA Editions, 2018). AASL is making this book available to affiliate members through their associations, so watch for news from VAASL to find out how you can benefit from this special arrangement. The standards may also be accessed through a searchable app, *AASL Standards Mobile App*. The *AASL Standards Framework for Learners* may be downloaded for free from the web portal, <http://standards.aasl.org>, or purchased in packets of 10 from the ALA store.

Other resources abound! While the Editorial Board was writing the standards and crafting this book, the Implementation Task Force developed a strategic plan for supporting school librarians. There are videos, print materials, webinars, and other opportunities to engage with other school librarians to explore, tinker, and implement these standards. Be sure to spend some time browsing the web page, and plan to come back often as we add new materials. Look for the Shared Foundation Infographics to get the "essence" of the Shared Foundations. Follow #AASLstandards. Watch the videos; be sure to see the *Learners Interpret the Standards* videos for a student perspective. Use the infographic "Six Action Steps" or "Reflect and Refresh" to start your own journey with the standards. Other resources can help you craft messages for educators and administrators in your building. Find and use the one-pagers and the message boxes for different stakeholder groups.