

# Where do I start?

## Six action steps for getting to know the *National School Library Standards*

Encountering new educational standards can be overwhelming. How do I decide where to begin? How much change will the standards ask of me? Instead of looking at the AASL Standards as a complete overhaul of our school library practice, let's start by taking one small but meaningful step for each of our Shared Foundations. As you explore, look for the concepts embedded in the AASL Standards components: Shared Foundations, Key Commitments, Domains, Competencies, and Alignments. Discover how the framework structure makes it easy to use and compare standards for learners, school librarians, and school libraries.



### Inquire

List three questions you have about your own practice as a school librarian. Then, read Chapter Two: Introduction to the Learner Standards, beginning on page 27 of the *National School Library Standards*. Which Shared Foundations will help you move your practice forward?



### Explore

Take a few minutes to browse all six Shared Foundations infographics. Identify one that you feel especially confident about. What are your strengths in this area? Identify one that is a challenge in your practice. How will you pursue growth in this area?



### Collaborate

Connect with other librarians (in person, online, or through social media) to seek their perspectives on the AASL Standards and to share your own. Follow [#AASLstandards](#) on Twitter. Visit the message boards on the AASL Standards web portal. How will you work with another colleague or teacher?



### Curate

Select two to three examples of past tasks, assessments, or student portfolios that demonstrate typical work students do in and through your library. What do these artifacts tell you about your strengths? Growth areas? Which Shared Foundations relate to these areas?

**Bonus!** Select and tag three professional resources to help you focus on an area of your practice.



### Include

Share the six Shared Foundation words with a small group of students. Which ones do they understand? Which do they need defined? Start thinking about how you'll introduce these to other students in your school.



### Engage

Now that you have considered these action steps, what do you plan to do first? Consider sharing your first steps at [#AASLstandards](#).

For the latest information and resources, visit [standards.aasl.org](https://standards.aasl.org).