

Managing Standards Overload

National School Library Standards in Context

A balanced pathway for standards integration

In U.S. public schools, standards are a driving force in every discipline and in every aspect of educational conversations. While standards are essential supports to our professional work, the sheer volume of standards that school librarians are charged with integrating can threaten to overwhelm rather than support us.

AASL acknowledges the complex balance that school librarians must find between the *National School Library Standards* and all the relevant disciplinary standards that are important to your students and teachers. **Identifying pathways** to integrate the school library standards into your already standards-rich educational work can help manage standards overload for yourself and for those with whom you collaborate.

Standards contribute to a school librarian's educational compass

Like every educator, each school librarian develops his or her theoretical perspective over time and in consultation with multiple professional resources and experiences. School library standards can never hope to represent the entirety of any librarian's professional knowledge and philosophy.



In addition to the *National School Library Standards*, individual school librarians bring a variety of professional **experiences**, disciplinary **theories**, evidence-based **research**, and personal and professional **knowledge** to their work. Although the *National School Library*

Standards are essential to developing effective school libraries, they are not the sole component of a school librarian's educational compass.

SCHOOL LIBRARIANS KNOW STANDARDS



In addition to the *National School Library Standards*, certified school librarians work with state and national standards across the curriculum to support rigorous learning experiences, some including:

- Common Core State Standards
- ISTE Standards
- Next Generation Science Standards
- C3 Social Studies Framework
- Standards for health & physical education, guidance, modern languages, career & technical education, and the arts

Charting your course: Your school, your standards

The *National School Library Standards* provide shared language to guide our conversations about student learning in and through school libraries, but they are not a checklist of skills, a rigid program to be rolled out, or a curriculum to be enforced. They provide direction as you develop a curriculum tailored to your learning community's priorities and needs. AASL Standards enable you to:

- **collaborate** with content and grade-level teachers,
- **pair** the *National School Library Standards* with grade-level content area standards to support performance tasks that go beyond reporting facts, and
- **articulate** a progression of inquiry learning that is tailored to your students, teachers, and community.

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