

How Do I Read the Standards?

Understanding the structure of AASL’s Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries

The *National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries* are anchored by six **Shared Foundations**—Inquire, Include, Collaborate, Curate, Explore, and Engage—which highlight the standards’ core educational concepts. Think of these as the big ideas that provide a compass for teaching and learning with students, teachers, and communities. A one-sentence **Key Commitment** then describes the essential understandings for each of the six Shared Foundations.

Each Shared Foundation is broken down into three to five Competencies for each learning category or **Domain**: Think (cognitive), Create (psychomotor), Share (affective), and Grow (developmental). The **Competencies** are measurable statements describing the knowledge, skills, and dispositions essential for learners and school librarians. The Competencies are expressed as **Alignments** for school libraries.


Shared Foundations, Key Commitments, and Domains appear across all three standards sets for learners, school

WHEN REFERRING TO A SPECIFIC COMPETENCY OR ALIGNMENT

within the standards, you can use the numeric and letter indicators. For example, the following Competency for Learners could be stated as learner standard I.B.3. because it references the first Shared Foundation (Inquire), the second Domain (Create), and the third Competency.

I.B.3. Learners engage with new knowledge by following a process that includes: Generating products that illustrate learning.

librarians, and school libraries. This parallel structure helps articulate how student learning relates to school librarian practice and to the overall school library environment.

Shared Foundation			Key Commitment	
Domain	LEARNER DOMAINS & COMPETENCIES	SCHOOL LIBRARIAN DOMAINS & COMPETENCIES	SCHOOL LIBRARY DOMAINS & ALIGNMENTS	Domain
A. Think				A. Think
B. Create				B. Create
C. Share				C. Share
D. Grow				D. Grow