

(652 words)

Value Proposition: The AASL National Standards

By the AASL Standards and Guidelines Implementation Task Force

What are your entry points for introducing the *National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries* to your administrators, teachers, or parents? There are barely enough hours in the day to complete the school librarian management and instructional tasks in a robust school library, let alone make important *new* connections and initiate conversations with administrators. But somehow, we find the time to do these things because they are foundational to our practice.

The Imperative:

Showcasing innovative and successful work to administrators is vital to *activating* their interest value of the school library. Consider sharing your work with administrators in a quarterly newsletter, infographic, or bulleted list with images. Include school library events, classes, your instructional focus, projects, reading initiatives, student driven activities, and connections to school initiatives.

Timing is Everything—The WHEN:

Consider sharing information about your school library and alignments between school initiatives and the AASL Standards when...

- your administrator implements a new initiative. Many current and upcoming school initiatives align with one or more of the Shared Foundations' Key Commitments and Competencies in the AASL Standards framework. What are your current school initiatives? They are likely related to literacy, being ethical citizens, problem solving, and creative or critical thinking. Each of these, and many more, are reflected in one or more of the Shared Foundations. Share the alignment and examples of the work you are currently doing or planning. Invite your administrator to observe your alignment with a school initiative. Your learners will be (Learner III.A.2.) “developing new understandings through engagement in a learning group,” so you will be able to describe and showcase how your work aligns with your school priority. Including this information in an all-school newsletter will also provide teachers with ideas about how they might collaborate with you. For further information on creating impactful alignments, listen to the AASL archived webinar, [Using the Standards to Further Your Instructional Leadership](#).
- your Leadership Team is trying to solve a problem. For example, if your administrators are currently looking for exemplars of learners unpacking content in a collaborative environment, consider highlighting the alignment between the Competencies in the Shared Foundation of Collaborate. This is the time to design or bring out a lesson in which you are “scaffolding enactment of learning group roles” (School Librarian III.A.2.).
- a content or grade-level team, team leader, or educator indicates that they would like to try something new. Ask learners to identify valuable resources (CURATE), provide feedback to each other in small groups (COLLABORATE), or peruse resources on topics in a unit to create the opportunity for them to wonder (EXPLORE). Look for innovative opportunities in each of the

Shared Foundations by reviewing the Competencies in the Learner, School Librarian, or School Library frameworks.

- you haven't seen your administrator in your school library recently. Highlight one aspect of the downloadable [One-Pager for Administrators](#) handout and share the value with your administrator. Send an invitation their way: invite administrators into your library for a specific class or event to personally experience your efforts, innovative practice, and transformation. This is a great opportunity for sharing the AASL Standards and showcasing the value of what you do.
- ...Whenever! Consider the impact of sharing *one aspect of your school library* at a faculty meeting, weekly "Lunch and Learn," one-minute briefs in monthly or weekly team meetings, or quarterly newsletters. Your clear and meaningful messaging will help educators and administrators build content connections to your school library and instructional practice. Highlight specific Shared Foundations, Key Commitments, and Competencies for added value.

When designing a plan to share your innovative work, take one step at a time, introduce information that your stakeholders can easily connect to through their lens and their needs, and always share your enthusiasm—it tells a story that your stakeholders will remember!