American Association of School Librarians
TRANSFORMING LEARNING

NATIONAL SCHOOL LIBRARY STANDARDS

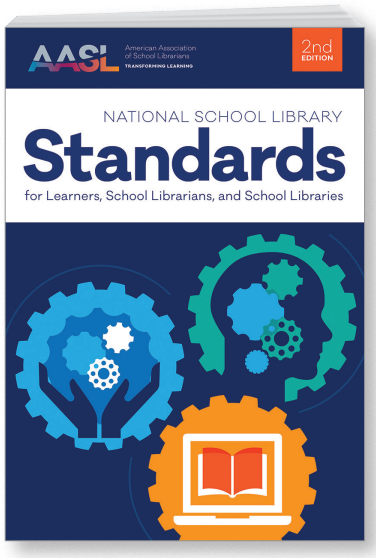
Advancing District Goals Through School Libraries

How the *National School Library Standards* Support Student Readiness

School boards are responsible for ensuring that every student graduates ready for college, career, and civic life. In today's information-rich and digitally complex world, readiness extends beyond traditional academics. Students must be able to inquire, evaluate sources, think critically, use technology responsibly, and create new knowledge.

The National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries (2nd ed.), developed by the American Association of School Librarians, provides a nationally recognized framework for achieving these outcomes through strong, professionally led school libraries. For boards of education, they serve as a practical governance tool to align resources, strengthen accountability, and advance district goals.

Under the leadership of a certified school librarian, the AASL Standards connect school libraries to measurable student achievement and position the library as a strategic instructional asset for student readiness and responsible governance.



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The AASL Standards enable school boards to:

- Strengthen literacy, research, and critical thinking outcomes.
- Expand access to meaningful learning opportunities for every student.
- Align school libraries with district academic priorities.
- Promote responsible stewardship of public resources.
- Provide benchmarks for program quality and continuous improvement.

Learn more: **standards.aasl.org**.

A Unified Framework

The AASL Standards establish shared expectations across **three areas:**

LEARNERS

What students should know and be able to do as readers, researchers, collaborators, and ethical information users.

SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

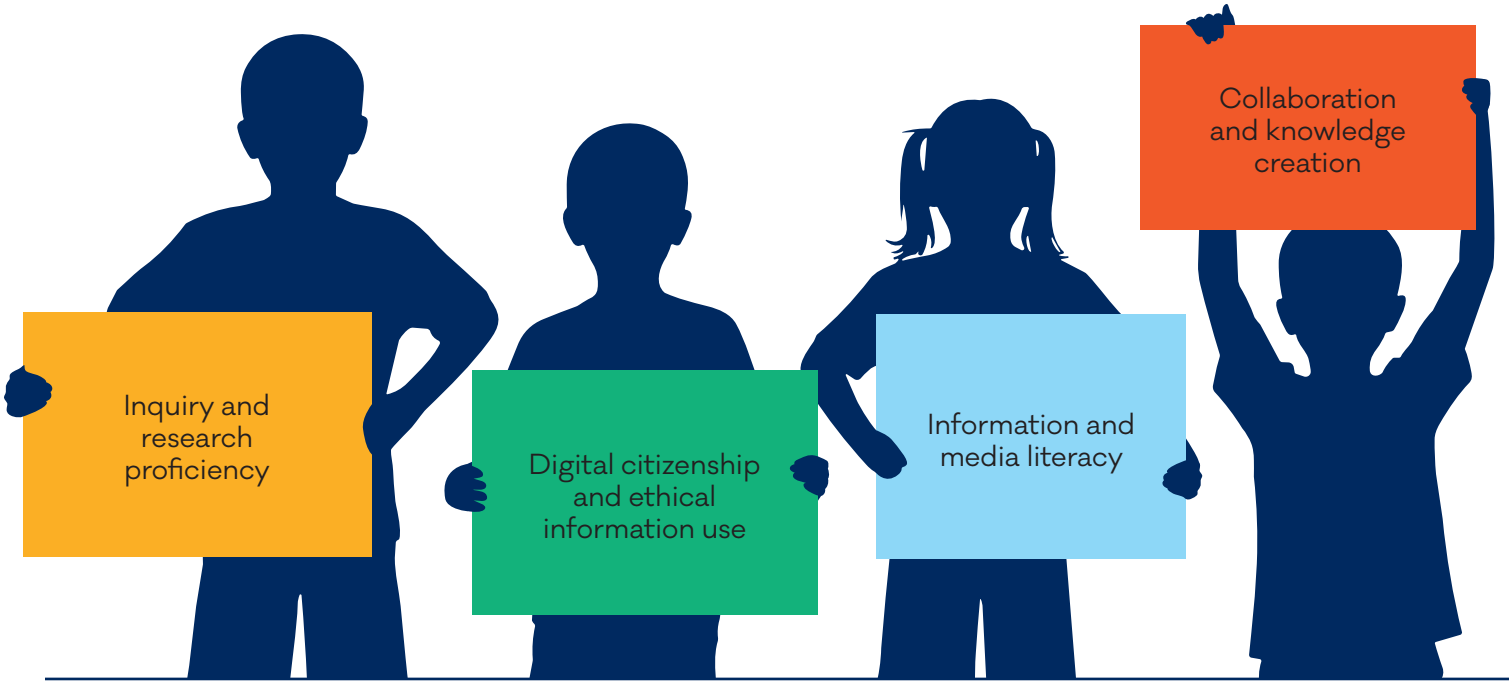
Professional practice, instructional leadership, and collaboration with other educators to support learning.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Operations, resources, policies, and learning environments that enable access and high-quality instruction.

A Focus on Skills

Implementation of the AASL Standards ensures students develop:



Board Action Matters

Adopting the AASL Standards enables school boards to align library programs, services, and instruction with district goals, ensure accountability, and support measurable student success.