

American Association of School Librarians
50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611-2795 | 800) 545-2433 #4382 | (312) 280-4382 | aasl@ala.org | www.aasl.org

CONNECTING ESSA TO SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Lorie Mitchell, Chair – Advocacy for School Libraries
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ESSA Webpage

<http://essa.aasl.org/>



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ALA Washington Office



ALA WASHINGTON OFFICE

Emily Sheketoff
Executive Director of Washington Office of American Library Association

<https://vimeo.com/183396897>



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Effective School Library Program

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) supports the position that:

An effective school library program has a certified school librarian at the helm, provides **personalized learning environments**, and offers equitable access to resources to ensure a **well-rounded** education for every student.

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Effective School Library Program

As a fundamental component of college, career, and community readiness, the effective school library program:

1. is adequately staffed, including a state-certified school librarian who
 - a. is an instructional leader and teacher,
 - b. supports the development of digital learning, participatory learning, inquiry learning, technology literacies, and information literacy, and
 - c. supports, supplements, and elevates the literacy experience through guidance and motivational reading initiatives;


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Effective School Library Program Cont.

2. has up-to-date digital and print materials and technology, including curation of openly licensed educational resources; and
3. provides regular professional development and collaboration between classroom teachers and school librarians.

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Title I

Title I – Improving basic programs operated by state and local educational agencies

Message: School librarians and access to effective school library programs, impact student achievement, digital literacy skills, and school climate/culture.

<https://vimeo.com/183388920>

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Title II, Part A

Title II: Supporting effective instruction

Message: School librarians share their learning with other professionals when they attend conferences and workshops, applying the benefits of new techniques, strategies, and technologies to the entire district.

<https://vimeo.com/183390785>

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LEARN

Literacy education for all, results for the nation (LEARN)

New literacy program that specifically authorized school librarians to participate in required activities.

<https://vimeo.com/183392270>

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LEARN

- States award competitive grants to school districts to support literacy instruction.
- To ensure comprehensive nature, funding must be allocated:
 - Not less than 15% for birth through K
 - 40% K-5th grade
 - 40% 6-12 grades
 - Authorizes school librarians to participate in local programs and activities.


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LEARN

- Allows supports for teacher/librarian collaboration on plans for comprehensive literacy instruction.
- Grants must support professional development for school personnel, including school librarians.

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IAL

Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL)

New authorization that specially authorizes funds to be used for developing and enhancing effective school library programs.

<https://vimeo.com/183393334>


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IAL

- Low income communities
- Authorizes funds for developing and enhancing effective school library programs
- Includes:
 - Professional development for librarians
 - Books
 - Up-to-date materials

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Title II, Part B

Title II, Part B: Literacy education for all, results for the nation (LEARN)/ Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL)

<https://vimeo.com/183393643>

Message: School librarians are uniquely suited to lead the effort in applying for competitive grants because of their expertise and access to strong professional learning networks.

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Title IV, Part A

Title IV, Part A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (Block Grants)

Message: School librarians increase access to personalized, rigorous learning experiences supported by technology, allowing equitable resources for all students.

<https://vimeo.com/183394913>


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Block Grants

- Based on level of poverty
- Issued to states, then districts
- States can use to assist school districts to access school libraries
- States can use to assist school districts in providing school librarians with knowledge and skill to use tech well.
- Local school districts must consult with stakeholders, which include librarians.


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Block Grants

- School districts must complete a needs assessment survey every THREE years
 - Must include access to personalized learning experiences which may include access to school libraries.
- New and complicated legislation

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Identifying Stakeholders & Building Coalitions




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Coalitions

- **Critical to identify stakeholders**
 - Including at the school, district (LEA) and state (SEA) levels
- **Form coalitions**
 - Bring together groups and organizations that support libraries
- **Think outside the box**
 - Utilize relationships and connections with education officials and policymakers in support of the effort
- **When anyone thinks of ESSA how do you get them to connect to school libraries**
 - Be prepared to talk about positive impact of library programming in the community – How are you making a difference?


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ESSA Stakeholder Engagement Required Participants

- Governor
- State legislature
- State boards of education
- Local educational agencies
- Representatives of Indian Tribes located in the state
- Teachers
- Principals & other school leaders
- Specialized instructional support personnel
- Paraprofessionals
- Administration & other staff
- Parents

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State Support and Opportunities

- Must provide support to schools not meeting state-determined goals for student and school performance
- Must engage stakeholders and include them in the development of state plans to monitor student and school performance.
- School Librarians are among the list of stakeholders
- Be at the table!


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Parents as Stakeholder Partners

- ESSA includes a provision for family engagement. Parents must be “meaningfully consulted” and involved in:
- State and local Title I plans
- Title II state and local applications
- Title III state and local plans
- Title IV-A local applications
- Title IV-B state applications
- State and local report cards
- School improvement plans

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New Mexico News

Be sure to stay abreast of the current involvement on the listserv or website at:

www.nmschoollibraries.com
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IDEAS? QUESTIONS?

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