Guidelines for Exemplary Alabama School Libraries

Library Media Task Force

assembled March 2022

Our WHY?

To promote the role of the school librarian as an **INSTRUCTIONAL PARTNER**

To promote the role of the school librarian as a **LITERACY CHAMPION**

To define an **EXEMPLARY SCHOOL LIBRARY**

SCHOOL LIBRARIES MATTER!

from the

American Association of School Librarians (AASL)

2018

Common Beliefs

1. The school library is a unique and essential part of a learning community.

2. Qualified school librarians lead effective school libraries.

3. Learners should be prepared for college, career, and life.

4. Reading is the core of personal and academic competency.

5. Intellectual freedom is every learner's right.

6. Information technologies must be appropriately integrated and equitably available.

AASL
American Association of School Librarians
TRANSFORMING LEARNING

NATIONAL SCHOOL LIBRARY STANDARDS

standards.aasl.org

Structure of the Document

I. The School Library Today

Vision, Mission, Common Beliefs, Shared Foundations

II. Teaching and Learning

Collaboration, Learner Outcomes

III. Library Learning Environment

Culture of Literacy, Flexible Open Access, Intellectual Freedom

IV. Library Management

Access, Budget, Collection Development, Advocacy and Outreach, Policies and Procedures

Sections II, III, IV include definition of an exemplary library, guidelines, and a rubric.

Sample Rubric

PERFORMANCE RUBRIC - COLLABORATION

	Developing	Accomplished	Exemplary
Criteria	**Coordination/ Cooperation/Partnerships**	**Integrated Instruction**	**Integrated Curriculum**
Collaboration with Administration	Awareness by administration of instructional planning and delivery in the context of coordinated school goals.	Ongoing interactive support by administrator of instructional planning and delivery to meet school goals.	Deep, iterative, strategic ongoing collaborative instructional planning with administrative input and oversight, resulting in an integrated curriculum.
Collaboration with Teachers	Occasional instructional planning and delivery as cooperation between the school librarian and teachers.	Ongoing instructional planning and delivery as reciprocal collaboration between the school librarian and teachers.	Deep, strategic, ongoing instructional planning, delivery, and evaluation collaboration between the school librarian and teachers.
School Librarian as Educator	Independent inquiry activities around information literacy and research skills instruction without reinforcement of classroom curriculum.	Collaborative activities build on content-area instruction to reinforce the role of students as thinkers, problem solvers, researchers, and ethical users of information through information literacy and research skills instruction.	Collaborative activities work in tandem with content-area instruction to strengthen students as thinkers, problem solvers, enthusiastic readers, skillful researchers, and ethical users of information through information literacy and research skills instruction.
School Librarian as Leader	Provides occasional leadership in curriculum development, professional learning, or technology integration across disciplines, ensuring effective implementation of new technologies and resources by some members of the faculty.	Provides intermittent leadership in curriculum development, professional learning, and technology integration across disciplines, ensuring effective implementation of new technologies and resources by most members of the faculty.	Provides active leadership in curriculum development, professional learning, and technology integration across disciplines, ensuring effective implementation of new technologies and resources by all members of the faculty.

Teaching and Learning

COLLABORATION

An exemplary school library program supports the curriculum through strong, strategic collaboration between the school librarian, building level teachers, instructional partners, administrators, and staff.

COLLABORATION

With the support of the Alabama State Department of Education, which allocates a library media unit to each school with 250+ students, **Alabama school librarians connect teachers and students to technologies, print resources, digital resources, and other learning opportunities** that have a positive impact on individuals and the learning environment.

COLLABORATION

In their 2018 *Phi Delta Kappan* article, "Why School Libraries Matter: What Years of Research Tells Us", Keith Curry Lance and Deb Kachel note the following: "Since 1992, **a growing body of research known as the school library impact studies has consistently shown positive correlations between high-quality library programs and student achievement.**"

COLLABORATION

Administrative Support
Teacher Support
School Librarian Support
    as **EDUCATOR**
    as **LEADER**
    as **INFORMATION SPECIALIST**
    as **INSTRUCTIONAL PARTNER**

Teaching and Learning

LEARNER OUTCOMES

An exemplary school library program empowers students to learn, develop, and apply skills in the areas of library use, information literacy, literature appreciation, and digital citizenship.

Legend			
O	**I**	**D**	**A**
Optional at this grade level	Introduce the concept	Develop the concept	Apply the concept

Recommended Learner Outcomes and are noted as optional, introductory, developed, or applied at each grade level band. Recommended Learner Outcomes are to aid in designing dynamic instructional tasks, ensuring all students are active participants in becoming information literate.

The Learner Outcomes chart also indicates which of the American Association of School Librarians Shared Foundations are reinforced for each outcome:

IQ = Inquire

IN = Include

CU = Curate

CO = Collaborate

EX = Explore

EN = Engage

Recommended Learner Outcomes build a solid foundation for cross-curricular instruction to maximize student achievement and to aid in collaborative planning.

INFORMATION LITERACY					
Recommended Learner Outcomes	**K-2**	**3-5**	**6-8**	**9-12**	**AASL**
1. Participate in individual or collaborative research projects.	I	D	D	A	IQ CO EX EN
1. Use text features and search strategies to locate, interpret, and organize information in print and digital sources.	I	D	D	D	IQ IN CU EX EN
1. Select and utilize databases and articles from diverse perspectives within Alabama Virtual Library to locate and apply information.	I	D	D	D/A	IQ IN CU EX EN
1. Include multimedia components and visual displays in presentations to enhance the development of main ideas or themes when appropriate.	I	D	D/A	A	CU CO EX EN
1. Appropriately credit sources used in research to avoid plagiarism.	I	D	D	D/A	EN
1. Explore digital tools to produce and publish in collaboration with peers.	I	D	D	A	IQ CU CO EX EN
1. Summarize or paraphrase information in notes and a finished work.	O/I	I	D	D/A	IN CU
1. Draw conclusions from evidence in information sources.	O/I	I	D	D	IQ IN EX EN
1. Identify and make a claim with supporting information.	O/I	I	I/D	D/A	IQ IN CO CU EX EN

Library Learning Environment

CULTURE OF LITERACY

An exemplary school library program is the heart of the school's reading community and encourages all learners to find their passion for reading and lifelong learning through a variety of literacies, reading formats, and technologies.

Library Learning Environment

FLEXIBLE, OPEN ACCESS

An exemplary school library is an open and welcoming environment that serves members of the school community at the point of need.

Library Learning Environment

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

An exemplary school library program is committed to ongoing support of all children's right to read, their equitable access to books and informational resources, and their right to library service.

School Library Program Management and Administration

- **Personnel**
- **Access**
- **Budget**
- **Collection Development**
- **Advocacy and Outreach**
- **Policies and Procedures**

Library Administration and Management

PERSONNEL

An exemplary school library is led by **a full-time, certified library media specialist** who is funded by the Alabama State Department of Education based on earned units and is supported by **an engaged supervisor at the district level.**

ACCESS

An exemplary school library is an **inviting, flexible, barrier-free** learning environment that encourages use by individuals, groups, and classes for collaboration, creation, and other activities to promote reading and inquiry.

Library Administration and Management

BUDGET
An exemplary school library program **effectively and economically supports teaching and learning** by ensuring careful and strategic stewardship of all resources allocated by the state, school and district, and community.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT
An exemplary school library program establishes and maintains a **robust collection of high-quality materials** to ensure that each student has **access to relevant, challenging, and inclusive resources that support the curriculum and diverse interests** of the student population while expanding their cultural awareness of the world.

An exemplary school library collection includes the following:

- Print, digital, and audio resources
- Resources that support the school curriculum
- Resources that support special learners
- An automated library management system
- An ample number of up-to-date books in good condition
- New materials
- Resources that reflect the personal and cultural interests of students and the community

Library Administration and Management

ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

An exemplary school librarian **advocates for support** for library services from administrators, stakeholders, legislators, and members of the public and **provides outreach for library services throughout the learning community.**

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

An exemplary school library program has **policies and procedures in place** to support the mission of the school library.

What a school thinks about its library is a measure of what it feels about education.
-Harold Howe