



# CSLA

California School Library Association  
Established 1915

## California School Library Association Legislative Priorities 2022

Presented by the Government Relations Committee to further the mission of California school libraries

The California School Library Association — through its members and advocates — works to make a difference for all Californians by providing adequately funded and staffed libraries in order to provide equity in education through access to relevant, diverse, and current information and access to teachers credentialed to teach information literacy and competency.

At the state level, CSLA actively advocates for the following legislation:

**1. Ensuring equitable access to diverse and inclusive information, including state-funded databases, and access to library services and instruction by supporting legislation that:**

- a. Allocates and maintains annual funding to support the diverse informational needs of students in all areas of CA, especially those in rural and underserved populations who lack access to public libraries, including funding for:
  - i. School library materials/books at all grade levels to create and maintain current and relevant library collections curated by teacher librarians.
  - ii. Credentialed teacher librarians in every school.
  - iii. Qualified library aides in every school.
  - iv. Accountability for use of such funding through submission of District Library Plans outlining implementation and funding composed by a committee containing at least one credentialed teacher librarian and one library aide from the district.
- b. Supports intellectual freedom and the freedom to read and access material with diverse points of view and with inclusion of people and experiences of all gender identities, races, abilities, socio-economic backgrounds, and religions.
- c. Supports Net-Neutrality and equal access to digital tools and information.
- d. Supports students' right to privacy and freedom of speech.

**2. Establish a School Library Lead in the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE) to help implement the state system of support:**

- a. To work collaboratively with state-level education policy leaders to advocate and promote school libraries as a vehicle to accomplish key priorities and initiatives.
- b. To work with county offices of education and local school districts to build the capacity to support excellent school library programs
- c. To coordinate and support efforts to improve literacy, learning, and libraries across the state, including supporting a revision of the MSLS and leading the rollout and implementation of the updated standards.
- d. To coordinate and lead professional development to facilitate collaboration between teacher librarians and other credentialed teachers to implement the MSLS and to integrate the school library program in all curricular areas.

### **3. Funding an update to the Model School Library Standards (MSLS)**

- a. The MSLS are a critical component in the state's accountability dashboard for the Local Control Funding Formula.
- b. Since their approval in 2010, the MSLS, published on the CDE website, establish the standards used by districts for planning school library programs and integration into the broader curriculum, thus an update will hold district and site administrators, classroom teachers, and teacher librarians accountable for preparing California students to meet 21st Century information literacy and cyber safety challenges.
- c. Remedy the crisis in higher education of incoming students who are unprepared to engage in college-level research and unable to conduct basic information literacy tasks like evaluating information on the internet for credibility.
- d. Ensure equity in education throughout California by providing clear standards for access to
  - i. early literacy and information literacy instruction from credentialed teacher librarians for college, career, and citizenship readiness.
  - ii. Current, diverse, and age appropriate library collections and curated digital collections.

CSLA also monitors all state legislation that may impact items on the above list or that are identified as having an impact on libraries, library funding and/or library staff.

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