



CSLA

California School Library Association
Established 1915

California School Library Association Legislative Priorities 2023

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 school libraries in order to provide equity in education through access to relevant, diverse, and current information and access to teachers credentialed to teach information & media literacy standards.

At the state level, CSLA actively advocates for the following

- 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, diverse, and relevant library collections curated by teacher librarians.
 - ii. At least one credentialed teacher librarian in every school.
 - iii. At least one qualified, classified library staff 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 classified library staff from the district.
 - b. Supports intellectual freedom, including 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, cultures, various worldviews, and religions.



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- 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 Agency 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 Model School Library Standards 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, to integrate the school library program in all curricular areas, and to support the role of classified library staff in library programs and operations.
- 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 and media literacy, including responsible and ethical use of social media and AI, and cyber safety challenges.
 - c. The MSLS prepares all students for success in college, career, and active citizenship by enabling them to conduct information literacy tasks such as evaluating information for credibility and engaging in effective research. The MSLS ensure equity in education throughout California by providing clear standards for access to



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- i. early literacy, and information and media literacy instruction from credentialed teacher librarians for college, career, and citizenship readiness, and
- 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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