

Position Statement on the School Library Supervisor

The following position statement is currently under review to align with the *National School Library Standards* (<http://standards.aasl.org>).

The leadership of a qualified school library supervisor is an essential component in the delivery of a quality school library program in collaboration with qualified school librarians and competent library support personnel. To ensure that students are successful 21st century learners, school librarians must provide equitable, intellectual, and physical access to resources and support reading throughout the school community. Today's schools require the presence of a highly qualified school librarian, equitable access to library resources, and quality school library programs and services. In a dynamic, digital landscape, school librarians empower students in gaining competencies they need to navigate and successfully utilize, create, and share information. To provide excellence in inquiry and project based instruction, school librarians need to be equipped with the tools, resources, and professional development necessary to actively instruct and engage both students and faculty within established standards. These can be provided and enhanced by the presence of a school library supervisor. The responsibilities of a supervisor encompass many areas but can be classified as those of leader, administrator, communicator, and teacher.

Leader

The school library supervisor is alert to new ideas, keeps abreast of innovative teaching methods and new instructional technologies. As a leader, the supervisor applies data-driven research for the development of short and long term plans to advocate school library programs to ensure student achievement. The supervisor assesses student and program needs by reviewing data, such as student assessment and program evaluation, to help students succeed. The supervisor also develops short and long-range plans for the district and building level school library programs in collaboration with other district leadership. The school library supervisor provides the framework for using state and national organization guidelines in implementing the objectives of a visionary school library program for the district.

Administrator

The school library supervisor formulates, oversees and administers a progressive school library program based on a collaboratively developed action plan directed by the district's mission statement, goals, and objectives supporting increased student achievement while interfacing with academic and technology integration. The supervisor is responsible for evaluating the school library program and making recommendations based on current educational research and professional best practices. The school library supervisor has responsibility in the areas of budget administration, district school library policies and procedures, print and digital collection development, resource challenges, copyright and ethical issues. Personnel responsibilities include selection, supervision, and evaluation of library staff, and collaboration with principals in the selection and evaluation of building level library personnel. Closely related activities are the development of job descriptions, the recruitment of school library personnel, and provision for their professional development. In a consulting capacity, the supervisor is actively involved in specifications for remodeling and new construction of school libraries, facilitating new designs to maximize both multi-functionality and library services to the school community.

Communicator

The school library supervisor communicates the relevancy of the school library program as it aligns to the district's mission, goals and objectives, and administrative and educational policies. The supervisor conveys information by acting as a liaison to school librarians, teachers, administrators, parents and students through the development of a district library portal, print and/or digital resources, professional learning communities and social media to communicate with all stakeholders. Data pertaining to school libraries is provided as required to district, state, or national agencies. The interpretation and promotion of school library programs and services that interface with Curriculum & Instruction and

technology services are important functions of the supervisor. Serving as an advocate for school library programs, the supervisor represents the district to government, private agencies, businesses and professional organizations. The supervisor provides information on educational studies, research, standards, legislation, and professional development.

Teacher

The school library supervisor is an instructional leader who develops, coordinates, and models best practices, and provides professional development while collaborating with district curriculum supervisors. A key role of the supervisor is to serve as a partner with the entire educational community to support student achievement goals and objectives.

The supervisor works in tandem with key educational personnel to provide professional development that enhances teaching and learning.

Facilitator

The school library supervisor coordinates and orchestrates the operation of a school library program that encompasses all aspects of instructional resources. As a member of curriculum development teams, the supervisor collaborates with other professionals to plan and implement the PreK-12 instructional program. The school library supervisor will facilitate data review, providing input, and developing a timeline for data-driven dialogue. As an innovator, the school library supervisor brings together all key stakeholders to facilitate change.

(Adopted 06/94; revised 05/12)