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Four Roadmaps for AASL Standards Adoption

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AASL's *National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries* were unveiled in November 2017 at the AASL National Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Since that unveiling, school librarians, school library supervisors, boards of education, and states have been moving forward to adopt the AASL Standards as the standard for school librarianship. The articles in this issue focus on how four states have adopted the AASL Standards and educated the school librarians in their states about them.

The power of the standards is that they are just that: standards. The *National School Library Standards* allow the power of the school library to be seen as an integral part of the educational experience. Standards in any profession lend credibility and importance to that profession's practices and procedures. The school library profession is no exception. AASL's powerful learning standards enable learners to learn to Inquire, Include, Collaborate, Curate, Explore, and Engage. As a result, students who graduate college and career ready will benefit from thinking, creating, sharing, and growing.

When I think about Alaska, in my mind's eye, I see bears, trees, eagles, gorgeous lakes, and snowy mountains. Outside Alaska's major cities, Alaska is incredibly rural with large remote areas that come with challenges. When I started reading about Alaska's journey implementing the AASL Standards Framework for Learners, I was drawn in by the descriptions of the realities of school libraries

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in Alaska. Janet Madsen and Deborah Rinio detail how through grant funding, Alaska school librarians were able to attend two AASL National Conferences (2017 and 2019) and participate in professional development on the standards. Their story takes the reader through the process as they set upon a journey to adopt the AASL Standards Framework for Learners as the Alaska state library and information literacy standards. Along the way Janet and Deborah share the valuable lessons they learned such as staying focused on the goal, what happens when a global pandemic causes upheaval and shifts in timelines, and learning about the public adoption process of standards.

Kathryn Roots Lewis, Cherity Pennington, Amanda Kordeliski, and Timmie Spangler share how Oklahoma worked to provide professional development on the AASL Standards equitably and effectively across the state—even for those school librarians unable to travel to a central location. For those who could not travel, a low-cost asynchronous course was developed. As if this was not enough, the Oklahoma School Librarians Division developed a summer academy for current school librarians and those studying to become school librarians. After reading everything that happened over the two and a half days of the summer academy, I can only say WOW! Once you read this article, you will realize the amazing lengths that Oklahoma went through to bring this amount of learning to school librarians and to adopt AASL's *National School Library Standards* as their own.

Allison Mackley takes her turn exploring the way Pennsylvania school librarians have participated in learning about the standards. She writes of an excitement in the school library community as the new standards were unveiled. Reading Allison's article and her description of being awe-struck while being in the "room where it happened" during the unveiling of the standards and learning from icons in our field, I found myself nodding along, picturing the day! Taking what she learned from the 2017 AASL unveiling of the standards, Allison and her colleagues in the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association set forth with an action plan to develop reflective practices, ownership, and accountability for school librarians around the AASL Standards. Moving from the traditional to the possible, Allison and her colleagues shifted curriculum, adopted new frameworks, and made connections between the old and the new, reinventing and updating with fantastic success.

The stars aligned and the timing was perfect for Arkansas's revision to its Library Media Standards, according to Cassandra Barnett. Cassandra details how she and the Arkansas Department of Education went about unpacking standards, created a workshop that would benefit Arkansas school librarians, and modeled the lessons learned from a pre-conference workshop at the 2017 AASL National Conference. In this article, Cassandra also shares some actionable items on how to create your own learning experiences for unpacking the standards and standards adoption. Reading this article reads like a roadmap for successfully adopting the *National School Library Standards*!

The articles in this issue share the expertise, the time commitment, and the power of creating a plan, working within the school library community, and creating

professional development that is meaningful for fellow school librarians. Taking the AASL Standards from proposal to adoption is no easy feat, and you will find yourself empowered to begin or strengthen the process in your own state or district after reading what these authors have shared.

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