

Good evening committee members and guests. My name is Amy Rominiecki. I am a Certified School Library Media Specialist at Seneca High School in Tabernacle, NJ and I am here to testify on behalf of the New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL).

NJASL has deep knowledge and connection to the New Jersey Common Core State Standards. In fact, my committee, the Standards Committee, evaluates and analyzes standards so that New Jersey's school librarians will stay abreast of current standards, including our national American Association of School Librarians Standards for the 21st Century Learner. NJASL has put together a Common Core Crosswalk to show how the Common Core and the AASL Standards strongly align.

As certified School Library Media Specialists, we earn our Master's Degrees through course work in library sciences and teacher education courses. Some librarians collaborate with classroom teachers; others are "special" classes and teach students alone. Many librarians complete formal and informal lesson plans that include the applicable Common Core Standards, and many also include the applicable AASL Standard. After our deep analysis and work with the Common Core Standards we have specific praise and concerns about the standards.

We value the clear and concise progression of skills in the CCSS. The Staircase of Complexity is necessary for students to grow. The ELA standards emphasize that students need different skills for different resources, texts, and subjects. The balance of informational and literary texts, the development of text-based arguments, writing from sources and academic vocabulary in the Common Core are all crucial to preparing students for the 21st Century. In the math portion of the Common Core students must use literary and information text related to mathematics, as well as technology to conceptualize mathematical principles.

Some of our suggestions to improve the standards are as follows. I am including direct feedback from members of NJASL:

1. Digital and online media should be infused throughout the standards and appear at all grade levels so that students read, view and listen for information in any format to gather meaning.
 - "The abilities to read and evaluate information based on prior knowledge and using various sources to verify authenticity seems lacking in the standards."
Certified School Librarian, grades 1-5
2. Students' exposure to, use of, and interaction with digital resources and social media should begin at earlier grade levels than those found in the ELA writing and speaking and listening sections.
3. Descriptions of inquiry and information literacy skills and the progression of these skills are not always consistent with other national standards. For example, AASL's *Standards for the 21st Century Learner* has students apply critical thinking skills to

draw conclusions and make informed decisions (see standard 2), while the common core does not. And while being able to communicate the results of an inquiry investigation are essential, the **process** leading to that final product is also important. The process of finding, evaluating, organizing, using, and creating information is critical and requires greater emphasis.

- “I use backwards design when planning my lessons. I first determine what standards I need to address. I just taught how to read and use informational text. My main questions were: How can we determine if a text is informational or literary? How do we read informational text to gain knowledge?”

The following standards applied:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.5 - Know and use various text features (e.g., headings, tables of contents, glossaries, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.6 -Distinguish between information provided by pictures or other illustrations and information provided by the words in a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.9 - Identify basic similarities in and differences between two texts on the same topic (e.g., in illustrations, descriptions, or procedures).

<u>Common Core Standards</u>	<u>AASL</u>	<u>NETS ISTE</u>
RL 2.1, RL 2.7, RI 2.1, RI 2.5, RI 2.6	3.1.3, 3.1.4	1.a, 1.b, 2.a, 2.b

Compare and contrast literary and informational texts, developing informational text reading strategies, generating and researching student generated questions.”

Certified School Library Media Specialist, Pre-K-5

4. The AASL standards provide the key abilities needed for understanding, learning, thinking and mastering subjects. They outline the dispositions or attitudes that guide thinking, define learner responsibilities and require reflective self-assessment of one's own learning. We find that these abilities are lacking in the Common Core.
 - “Where I find the standards lacking are where there are few related CCCS or no obvious CCCS for certain skills, dispositions, responsibilities and self-assessment strategies. The American Association of School Librarians standards include the following standards that our students NEED to know, but they are not in the CCCS.

2.4.3 Recognize new knowledge and understanding.

2.4.4 Develop directions for future investigations.

3.4.1 Assess the processes by which learning was achieved in order to revise strategies and learn more effectively in the future.

4.1.4 Seek information for personal learning in a variety of formats and genres.

4.3.3 Seek opportunities for pursuing personal and aesthetic growth.

4.3.4 Practice safe and ethical behaviors in personal electronic communication and interaction.

4.4.1 Identify own areas of interest.

4.4.2 Recognize the limits of own personal knowledge.

4.4.3 Recognize when, why, and how to focus efforts in personal learning.

4.4.5 Develop personal criteria for gauging how effectively own ideas are expressed.

4.4.6 Evaluate own ability to select resources that are engaging and appropriate for personal interests and needs.

As librarians, we instinctively include these skills in our teaching. The AASL's crosswalk with the CCCS shows that they aren't explicitly included in the standards. These skills are critical, and they fall squarely within our expertise and curricula."

Certified School Library Media Specialist, High School

5. Finally, the school librarian plays a critical role in facilitating student and faculty learning in the areas of inquiry-based learning, information literacy, digital literacy, and exposure to literature and informational text. We suggest that mention of the school librarian's part in implementation of these standards would help foster such collaboration at the school level thus deepening the critical thinking skills of students.
- "The ELA standards need to include the evaluation of information and using multiple sources to form an opinion or create new information and then communicate the findings in a variety of manners be it writing, or various media.

Wording needs to be added to take students to the level where they are self-evaluating their own learning and developing dispositions to view all information and knowledge seeking using these developed thinking skills.

In today's world, it is vital to infuse LA strands across the curriculum. In the business world, employees work in teams and communicate in multiple ways.

The words research, text, read, write, technology and information are prevalent in the Common Core State Standards. These are all specialties of the School Library Media Specialist. The major missing link in the Standards is that classroom teachers must work with a certified SLMS in each school as an

instructional partner and co-teacher. The standards guide the classroom teacher in WHAT is to be taught at a given grade level. The SLMS brings knowledge of the vast variety of appropriate information resources for all curricular subjects along with the connections among the subjects. SLMS teach the process of learning and identify HOW to develop deeper learning related to information across grade levels."

Retired Certified School Librarian

Thank you very much for your time today and the opportunity to comment on the Common Core State Standards. As you can see, New Jersey's School Library Media Specialists are very invested in the standards and preparing students for success in the 21st Century.

If I can provide additional information or assistance to the committee as it reviews the ELA and Math standards, please contact me. Amy Rominiecki, Seneca High School, 110 Carranza Rd., Tabernacle, NJ 08088, Phone: 609-268-4600, ext. 6620, email: amyrominiecki@juno.com

References:

AASL Standards for the 21st-Century Learner. Excerpted from Standards for the 21st-Century Learner by the American Association of School Librarians, a division of the American Library Association, copyright © 2007 American Library Association. Available for download at <http://www.ala.org/aasl/standards>

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