

Alabama Department of Education

Alabama's
School
Library Media
Plan
for the
21st Century
Learner



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

~To provide a state
system of education
which is committed
to academic excellence
and which provides
education of
the highest quality
to all Alabama students,
preparing them
for the 21st century.~



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INTRODUCTION

The Alabama Department of Education advocates exemplary library media specialists and library media programs in Alabama public schools. In 2007, the Planning Committee began work on the new Alabama Plan for library media programs. These objectives are aligned with national standards and guidelines. Library media specialists in Alabama representing different regions throughout the state developed, organized, edited, and were consulted with in writing these objectives.

Research indicates that the school library media program has significant potential for enhancing student achievement. A quality library media program is central to a collaborative objectives-based instructional program. The library media specialist is a leader and visionary who implements a 21st Century library media program that engages learners in activities that promote increased student achievement. The library media specialist possesses the knowledge and skills to enable the learning community to become effective users of ideas and information.

This document provides the objectives that will guide school systems in establishing, enhancing, and supporting 21st Century school library media programs.

VISION STATEMENT



In collaboration with the school's learning community, Alabama's 21st Century library media programs will be the center of teaching and learning by providing access to quality collections and technologies and by extending services beyond the library media center's four walls and the school day.

MISSION STATEMENT



Alabama's School Library Media Plan for the 21st Century Learner expresses the mission of Alabama's library media programs as supporting the school's instructional program to improve student learning and student achievement. This mission is accomplished by:

- Ensuring learners will be able to independently inquire, think critically, and gain, create, and share knowledge.
- Providing real and virtual access to appropriate, high-quality resources and services during and outside the school day.
- Participating in curriculum development and design of learning activities.
- Facilitating professional development for the learning community.

AMERICAN Association of School Librarians Standards ...

The American Association of School Librarians Standards describe how learners use skills, resources, and tools to:

- Inquire, think critically, and gain knowledge
- Draw conclusions, make informed decisions, apply knowledge to new situations, and create new knowledge
- Share knowledge and participate ethically and productively as members of our democratic society
- Pursue personal and aesthetic growth

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslproftools/learningstandards/standards.cfm>

... AND BELIEFS

The American Association of School Librarians Standards for the 21st Century learner offer a vision for teaching and learning to guide the school library media program. Alabama school library media programs will promote the nine foundational common beliefs as the basis for learning.

- Reading is a window to the world.
- Inquiry provides a framework for learning.
- Ethical behavior in the use of information must be taught.
- Technology skills are crucial for future employment needs.
- Equitable access is a key component for education.
- The definition of information literacy has become more complex as resources and technologies have changed.
- The continuing expansion of information demands that all individuals acquire the thinking skills that will enable them to learn on their own.
- Learning has a social context.
- School libraries are essential to the development of learning skills.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslproftools/learningstandards/standards.cfm>

OBJECTIVES

OF THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Information Access

Providing open, flexible, and equitable access to 21st Century materials and information is a primary function of the library media program.

Indicators:

- Provides intellectual access to information and ideas for 21st Century learning.
- Provides physical access to information and resources for learning.
- Provides flexible, open access to archived, current, and new resources to meet the learning needs of the school community.

The Learning Environment

The 21st Century library media program learning environment is designed to meet the needs of learners in both individual and collaborative settings, enhance learner success, and promote the use of the library media resources and services.

Indicators:

- Provides a curriculum-based, flexibly scheduled, open access learning environment that accommodates all learners.
- Supports the mission and goals of the school and promotes the development of a curriculum-rich environment.
- Incorporates collaborative planning, information literacy, and technology instruction by the library media specialist and teachers.
- Provides opportunities for staff development and professional growth for library media staff, teachers, administrators, and other members of the learning community.
- Provides technical access and instruction for students, teachers, administrators, and staff.



OBJECTIVES

OF THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Facilities

The 21st Century library media center provides an atmosphere that is conducive to student learning and allows for safe, flexible, open access for all learners.

Indicators:

- Designed to encourage simultaneous use by large groups, small groups, or individuals.
- Arrangement of the library media center permits visual control of the entire center.
- Age-appropriate sized and constructed shelving and seating.
- Proper lighting for designated areas and tasks.
- Infrastructure needed to sustain existing and emerging technologies.
- Functional circulation area close to the entrance and easily accessible.
- Attractive, adequately sized signage.
- Aesthetically pleasing arrangement of the library media center.
- Office space and adequate work areas.
- Accessibility for persons with disabilities in accordance with Public Law 101-476, Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments 1990.
- Sufficient temperature and humidity control.

Specific facility requirements are located in the *Alabama Department of Education: Alabama's School Library Media Handbook for the 21st Century Learner*.



PERSONNEL

Competent, skilled library media personnel support and enhance the curriculum and contribute to student achievement.

Indicators:

- Each school system shall have a library media supervisor to mentor school library media specialists and to facilitate communication between the Alabama Department of Education and the school library media specialist.
- The library media specialist is certified, evaluated annually by appropriate criteria, and has a plan for professional development.
- Library media earned units are set by the Alabama Department of Education.
- Local school systems are required to place library media units where they are earned and under the supervision of the administration.
- Library media paraprofessionals are placed where they are earned and are under the supervision of the school administrator and the library media specialist.
- Job descriptions are developed in accordance with Alabama Department of Education standards.
- Adopted board policies regarding the library media program are the responsibility of the library media specialist.
- Forty percent of the library media specialist's time is spent daily in management of the library media center.
- A public relations plan is essential to promote advocacy for the library media program.
- A library media advisory committee is chaired by the library media specialist and is comprised of at least one each of the following:
 - Administrator
 - Department/grade representative
 - Student
 - Parent
 - Community member

OBJECTIVES

OF THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Annual and systematic evaluation and assessment provide data for the management and decision-making policies regarding the complete library media program.

Indicators:

- The library media specialist is certified, has a plan for professional development, and is evaluated periodically by appropriate, predetermined criteria as determined by the school system.
- The library media specialist participates in periodic review and ongoing informal and formal assessment.
- The library media program is routinely assessed.
- The library media center uses an approved electronic management system.
- Pertinent policies are readily accessible, for public information, assessment, and viewing.
- Forty percent management time is allotted daily for the library media specialist.
- The school library media center is exemplary in meeting the needs of the entire school community.
- An online public access catalog of the library media center collection is made available.
- New and emerging technologies are assessed to determine feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and relevant support.
- The library media specialist ensures that all library records are kept confidential.

RESOURCES

The 21st Century library media center provides a variety of resources to support the diverse needs of all learners.

Indicators:

- The 21st Century library media program shall provide current print, non-print, technology, and online materials.
- Resources are organized using a standard automated classification system.
- The library media program provides access to resources within the library media center and outside the school facility.
- The library media specialist provides assistance in collection evaluation, library-based technology and acquisition, and utilization of the library media collection.

Specific resource requirements are located in the *Alabama Department of Education: Alabama's School Library Media Handbook for the 21st Century Learner*.



OBJECTIVES

OF THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Technology

The library media specialist is an education leader who promotes the success of all students by facilitating the use and integration of technology, telecommunications, and information systems to enrich the curriculum and enhance learning.

Indicators:

The library media specialist:

- Participates in writing the school and system technology plans.
- Participates in the assessment and acquisition of technology.
- Provides and participates in professional development technology instruction.
- Models and instructs on conduct, ethics, and integrity in the use of the Internet and other electronic resources.
- Uses existing and emerging 21st Century technology to access, evaluate, and distribute information.
- Models the information problem-solving processes in providing instruction using technology reference and research techniques.
- Participates in state and national technology initiatives.
- Attains technology competencies that are evaluated by an approved evaluation instrument.
- Instructs students in acquiring technology information literacy skills.
- Serves as a leader to effectively demonstrate the application of technology in the learning environment.

Budgets and Funding

The school library media specialist collaborates with the local school district/system and administrators to ensure that funds are budgeted to maintain the library media program.

Indicators:

- The library media center must have adequate, consistent, and sustained funding.
- The Alabama Code must be followed in the expenditure of state library enhancement funds.
- Budgeting procedures for library enhancement funds, as stated by the Alabama Department of Education, must be followed.
- State, national, and regional accreditation standards; school curriculum; and collection assessment are required in the budgeting process of the library media center.
- The library media specialist must maintain accurate budget records. These records should be retained for a minimum of three years.
- The library media specialist should prepare annual reports. These documents should be retained for a minimum of three years.
- The library media advisory committee, administration, and faculty assist in the budget process.

OBJECTIVES

OF THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Policies and Procedures

Policies and procedures are needed to provide excellent resources, programs, and services for the educational community.

Indicators:

- School systems shall have a board-approved policies and procedures handbook for the library media center.
- The policies, procedures, and practices of the library media program reflect legal guidelines and professional ethics.

