

Massachusetts Legislation

An Act Relative to

School Libraries

Bills S.428 & H.4207

VALUE OF STANDARDS

The School Library Standards bills define an effective school library program as one that employs a Licensed School Library Teacher (LSLT), offers up-to-date, culturally responsive print and digital resources, and provides equitable learning opportunities for the school community. Based on the AASL National School Library Standards, their adoption offers information literacy (IL) competencies – not a curriculum – but integrates with ALL K12 academic and extracurricular content.

The Bills require no funding. DESE will provide data to study how to ensure equitable access across the Commonwealth. School districts and administrators will be provided with IL tools to operationalize the standards.

DESE COLLABORATIONS

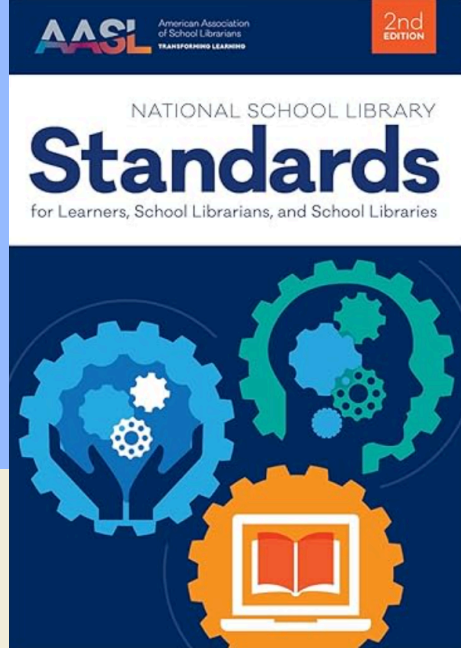
DESE and the MA School Library Association developed and are piloting (17 schools) a School Library Teacher Evaluation Rubric, based on the AASL standards. Provides professional support for SLTs & evaluators.

Media Literacy Now & DESE recently published Media Literacy in MA: A Landscape Plan and Policy Recommendations. With the Massachusetts School Library Association, there is a call to invest in school librarians as media literacy leaders (pp. 7 & 119).

MA SCHOOL LIBRARY TEACHER (SLT) LANDSCAPE

- MSLA Policy Brief: Impact of SLTs on Students & the Educational Ecosystem
- Number of schools with 0 LSLTs: 1102, 60.32%
- Number of schools with less than 1 LSLT: 275, 15.05%
- Number of schools with 1 LSLT: 403, 22.06%
- Number of schools with more than 1 but fewer than 2 LSLTs: 20, 1.09%
- Number of schools with 2 or more LSLTs: 18, 0.99%
- Total Schools 1827
- Districts with “0” LSLTs increased by 2% between 2023–2025
- 39% of MA School Districts have “0” LSLTs

Source: DESE 2024–2025 Educator by Age Group



Legislative Path

PETITIONERS

Senator, Jacob Oliveira

Representative, Angelo Puppolo

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

- Hearing Held on November 12, 2025
- Strong Panel Testified
 - Student,
 - National, State & School Librarians
 - State Teachers Associations

URGENT ACTION

Refer S.428 & H.4207 Legislation to the Massachusetts Senate and House Ways & Means Committees.

RELATED LEGISLATION

Ma. Bd. of Library Commissioners – FY 27 Agenda

S.2726, An Act regarding free expression

S.2710 – Ebook Bill