

AASL Comments on the National Educational Technology Plan 2010

Submitted to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, May 2010

The AASL Board of Directors sent this comment letter in response to the National Educational Technology Plan 2010, Transforming American Education: Learning Powered by Technology. The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) commended the Department of Education on the plan that presents a shared vision on the potential of technology in schools.

This is excerpts of that letter:

The school librarian plays a critical role in facilitating student and faculty understanding of 21st-century literacies - digital literacy, visual literacy, textual literacy, and technological literacy.

Through AASL, the national school library community developed the *Standards for the 21st Century Learner*, which addresses many portions of the National Educational Technology Plan. School libraries that are staffed with certified school librarians interface with the National Educational Technology Plan in the **LEARNING** goal in the following ways:

- Allow virtual access to a variety of instructional materials for students.
- Actively incorporate Web 2.0 tools, such as podcasts, blogs, RSS feeds, Wordles, and Glogster.
- Provide technology tools that enable students to interact with the global community.
- Develop lifelong learning skills by teaching students how to navigate through virtual resources.

School libraries staffed by certified school librarians interface with the National Educational Technology Plan in the **ASSESSMENT** goal in the following ways:

- School librarians teach students how to assess validity and authenticity of electronic resources. This allows students to draw conclusions, make informed decisions, apply knowledge to new situations, and create new knowledge
- School librarians influence and collaborate with teachers in determining how research projects are assessed. They direct teachers to alternative ways using technology for students to demonstrate mastery.
- School librarians lead teachers to resources which allow universal access for students who can't access materials in a traditional format

School libraries staffed by certified school librarians interface with the National Educational Technology Plan in the **TEACHING** goal in the following ways:

- School librarians work in a multi-media environment that promotes the synthesis of information by incorporating a variety of reading, technological, and digital retrieval skills.
- School librarians are positioned to collaborate with all members of the staff to integrate digital and print resources and act as a leader in developing digital citizens.
- School librarians are experienced to work with learners at all levels.
- School librarians provide instruction for students on the ethical and legal policies and practices relating to technology and digital resources.



School libraries staffed by certified school librarians interface with the National Educational Technology Plan in the **INFRASTRUCTURE** goal in the following ways:

- School librarians are trained as facilitators and are among the first adopters in the educational process to integrate technology into the search process, which engages students meaningfully with information.
- The school library program is a platform that creates a flexible environment for planned as well as momentarily inspired needs in a supportive and carefully constructed environment. It is the great equalizer for all learners.
- While tools for a 21st-century learning model will be easily available in a robust digital environment, the skills for using the tools will be part of the educational growth of the staff members. The school librarian already with those skills is positioned to integrate and expand the digital learning community.
- School librarians use and promote learning activities that connect the integration of technology to local, state, and national content standards.

School libraries staffed by certified school librarians interface with the National Educational Technology Plan in the **PRODUCTIVITY** goal in the following ways:

- School libraries provide a learning laboratory environment with resources and technological tools for students to learn independently.
- School librarians use technology to enable and empower learners with diverse backgrounds.
- School librarians organize special programs and events related to technology.
- School librarians strive to reduce barriers to constructive use of digital resources.

School librarians are consistently at the forefront in leading the way with technology to enable students to develop the skills needed to be successful in work and in life in the twenty-first century. We are encouraged by the National Educational Technology Plan 2010 and look forward to being included in it in order to facilitate the school library program's influence on all learners through technology.