August 2018

Dear fellow School Library Media Specialist:

On behalf of the Office of Instructional Technology and School Library Media, we extend greetings as you begin your new assignment! We trust that you will find your library media position both challenging and rewarding. This is an exciting time to be a school library media specialist in Maryland. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in partnership with local school systems, will continue to build on school reform as we implement The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). New initiatives at MSDE include the curation and use of open educational resources through a Maryland OER Hub, customizing the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) National School Library Standards to be adopted as Maryland State School Library Standards, and employing a new statewide learning management system. We will continue our focus on experiential and personalized learning via makerspaces in schools and school libraries as well as implementation of the Maryland College and Career-Ready and other content standards.

This is an important time for School Library Media Specialists to integrate literacy skills, in all forms, into every content area and to demonstrate how outstanding library media programs contribute to student achievement. Please bookmark the MSDE School Library Media Program web page at:

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/ITSLM/slm/index.aspx

In the left column you will find useful resources including information on ESSA and COMAR, the State Performance Indicators for grades PreK-12, and a matrix of standards impacting school libraries. Check back often for updates and additions to the resources linked there.

MSDE is committed to the concept that the school library media program is a fundamental and essential component of a school's instructional program. Since 1987, the State Board of Education has outlined standards for school library media programs to support statewide implementation of quality programs. The 2000 edition of Standards for School Library Media Programs in Maryland will be undergoing revision based on the new State standards in the coming year. The current document serves as a guide to creating a quality library media program that contributes to effective instruction and student learning. In addition, there is an expectation that you will be a partner in the integration of digital resources into curriculum through the use of national technology standards.

Today's School Library Media Specialist, as a member of the instructional team, works collaboratively with administrators, teachers, students, and community members to provide a media center that is a welcoming space for learning, exploration and creativity. The successful library media program reflects services that are dynamic, exciting, and adaptable, providing students and staff with rich resources in both print and digital formats and first-rate instruction.

The library media center is an active space, truly the heart of instruction in the school; a place where students and staff want to be. As an innovative professional, you have an opportunity to develop and promote a library media program that contributes to success for all students!!
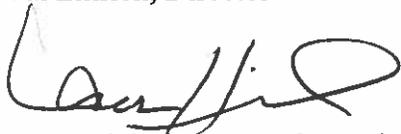
Attached with this letter, is our IT&SLM Division flier. It contains our Mission and Vision statements as well as the hallmarks of a quality school library media program. The Selected Links bring together resources to support your instruction and professional growth through state and national professional organizations. All of the sources mentioned in this letter are linked on this flier.

We welcome you and hope that the vital links that we have provided will be helpful in developing your program. Please make your needs known to your local school library media administrator, who will inform us when we may be of assistance. We wish you a most successful year and the best in all of your professional activities.

Sincerely,

Val Emrich, Director

Laura Hicks, Program Specialist

Instructional Technology and School Library Media Program

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VISION

School library media programs are essential to student achievement and college and career readiness. They provide all students and staff members with equitable and timely access to ideas and information. Through an integrated instructional program, school library media specialists ensure that students and staff are ethical, effective users of ideas and information, and lifelong learners.

MISSION

The school library media program provides leadership, instruction, resources, and services to assist students and teachers in becoming critical thinkers in the pursuit and use of ideas and information. With well-prepared and highly qualified professional personnel supported by appropriate technical and clerical staff, a school library media program realizes the vision by providing:

- *An instructional program that supports the goals of the school, is integrated with the curriculum, and results in student achievement of learning outcomes in information and technology literacy, independent learning, and socially responsible use of information and information technology.*
- *Effective and knowledgeable instructional partnerships in all curricular areas to foster a culture of questioning, information seeking, evaluation, and discovery that facilitates learning and the development of instructional resources.*
- *Support of classroom reading instruction and reading for personal and academic success.*
- *Support for all students in developing an appreciation of literature and reading to access information in a variety of formats.*
- *Support for all students and staff in developing skills in understanding, using, and producing media in appropriate and multiple formats.*
- *Equitable and timely access to organized collections of resources and delivery of services in digital and traditional formats during and beyond the school day.*
- *Ongoing development and analysis of a diverse collection of information resources in a variety of formats, and representing multiple perspectives that support curricula and encourage all students and staff to pursue personal interests.*
- *Equitable access to current instructional and information technologies that enhance learning for all students and teachers.*
- *Professional development and other support for teachers in their effective use of various technologies in the classroom and library media center.*
- *Partnerships with parents and community members to establish and foster a community of learners.*
- *Facilities that are welcoming and supportive for engaging with information in multiple formats and conducive to participatory learning.*
- *Facilities and sponsorship for clubs, afterschool activities, and special events both face-to-face and virtually.*

Selected Links

[MSDE School Library Media Program](#)

[MDK12 Digital Library](#)

[Maryland College and Career Ready Resources](#)

[Standards for School Library Media Programs in Maryland](#)

[School Improvement in Maryland](#)

[School Library Standards](#)

[Student Technology Standards](#)

[Ask Us Now!](#)

[SAILOR – Maryland's Public Information Network](#)

[ESSA and School Libraries](#)

[AASL Best Tools for Teaching & Learning](#)

[Common Core State Standards - Implementation Assistance Toolkit](#)

[American Association of School Librarians (AASL)](#) / [Membership](#)

[Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL)](#) / [Membership](#)

[Maryland Library Association (MLA)](#) / [Membership](#)

[International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)](#) / [Membership](#)

[Maryland Society for Educational Technology (MSET)](#) / [Membership](#)

Laura J Hicks, Program Specialist
*School Library Media
Curriculum, Instructional Improvement
and Professional Learning
200 W. Baltimore Street, 5th floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2595*

*laura.hicks@maryland.gov
410-767-0534*