



Current School Library Related Legislative Bills

There are currently two bills pending in the NJ legislature that relate to school libraries. Both of these bills would provide support for NJASL's vision statement: "That every student in every school in New Jersey is served by a certified full-time School Library Media Specialist".

The Goal of NJASL is to gain as many sponsors as possible for these two bills.

Bill 1 [A4500](#) / [S3258](#) Would require a certain ratio of school library media specialists

Assembly Sponsors: Shavonda Sumter, Benjie Wimberly (LD 35), Daniel Bensen (LD 14)

Assembly Co-Sponsors: Ralph Caputo (District 28), Blonnie Watson (District 29)

Introduced Assembly : January 19, 2017 Referred to Assembly Education Committee

Senate Sponsor: James Beach (LD 6), June 6, 2017 Referred to Senate Ed. Comm.

Purpose: Maintain ratios to ensure that students have access to trained school media specialists and a highly effective program.

Requirements:

- Enrollment fewer than 300 students, one half-time SLMS per school
- Enrollment between 300 and 1,499 students, one full-time SLMS per school
- Enrollment of more than 1,500 students, two full-time SLMS per school

Why this is Important for SLMS: Associate and School Library Media Specialist Cert. Functions include delivery of instruction in information literacy skills, and the development and coordination of school library media programs and resources.

Background:

2015 ESSA legislation - language related to school libraries led to NJASL/NJLA Census

Bill 2 [A4858](#) – Require instruction on information literacy in curriculum in grades K -12.

Assembly Sponsors: Wayne DeAngelo (District 14) and Daniel Bensen (District 14)

Co-Sponsors: Assemblywoman Blonnie R. Watson (District 29)

Introduced May 18. 2017 **Referred** to Assembly Education Committee

How will it be infused?

- Placed in an appropriate place in the curriculum
- Curriculum guidelines developed by Commissioner of Education in consultation with NJ State Librarian.
- Guidelines would include model instructional units, define learning objectives, and recommend instructional materials suitable for each grade level.

What Can You Do to Help Promote the Bills?

Contact Your Legislators -

Search for Your Legislator: <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp>

Remember to use the wording:

I Live in District _____

My legislators for this district are _____

OR

I Work in District _____

My legislators for this district are _____

Contact members of the Assembly Education and Senate Education Committee:

<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/committees/ShowCommittee.asp>

Talking Points for School Library and Information Literacy Legislation

- SLMS are uniquely qualified to teach information literacy and have appropriate certification
- SLMS work with students and staff - best bargain
- Collaborate with teachers to support NJ Student Learning Standards
- Others???

Remember to Share: Why is is this important for your legislator?

What are Key Terms / Phrases / Stories that you can share with your legislators?

For More Specific Details on Legislative Bills View Presentation:

<https://tinyurl.com/njasloct19>

Visit: <http://njasl.org/> and <http://unlockstudentpotential.org/> for additional supporting information and updates on legislative bills.

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