



Title: NJ Department of Education adopts AASL wording into NJ Student Learning Standards

After months of review, the New Jersey Department of Education adopted changes to the New Jersey Common Core standards in language arts and math in May, 2016. They are now called the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The updated standards should be fully utilized in place of the NJ Common Core Standards.

New Jersey Association of School Librarians Standards Committee Chair Amy Rominiecki and Standards Committee member Gabrielle Casieri testified for the review board earlier this year, suggesting changes which would align the New Jersey standards with the American Association of School Librarians Standards. It is with enthusiasm that we let you know the review board voted to accept some of those changes, outlined below.

According to the NJ Department of Education, "The SRC agreed to incorporate language from the American Association of School Librarians into Grade 3-12 ELA standards..."

Examples:

- The addition of the phrase "**and reflect on**" to the College and Career Ready (CCR) Anchor 9 across all grade levels. The rationale was to highlight the imperative that students need to make connections with the world, with their experiences and knowledge, and with other text.
- Reading Literature standards 1 and 9 now also includes "...**and reflect on** (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) central message/theme, lesson and/or moral• settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters (e.g., in books from a series)."
- Additionally, the phrase "**and reflect on**" has been added to other Reading Literature standards.
- All grade levels added "**with scaffolding as needed**" to the CCR Anchor standard 10 to encourage districts to consider reader and task, qualitative and quantitative measures in text selection for classroom instruction.
- There was a re-assignment of standards for Reading Literature with standard 4.9 and 5.9 being switched. The subcommittee recommends this in keeping with grade level expectations for students and thought that the progression was more logical with the switching of these grade level standards.
- Reading Literature standard 1, grades 9-10, was revised to include the statement "**including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.**" This statement currently appears in grades 11-12 and will remain there. The sub-committee thought that in preparing students for college and careers, this specific concept needs more attention earlier in students' high school experience.
- CCR Writing standard 7 was revised as recommended across grade levels. Influenced by the recommendations of the Association of School Librarians, the sub-committee added "**an inquiry based research process.**"

(From: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/standards/resources/summary.pdf>)

It is important to note that the revised standards adoption **will not** impact PARCC for Spring 2016 and the 2016-2017 school year and the standards revisions are unlikely to significantly impact PARCC moving forward.

A crosswalk of revisions from the NJ Common Core Standards to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards is located here: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/2016/ela/crosswalk.pdf>

To see the recently updated New Jersey Student Learning Standards go to:
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/>

Any questions or concerns: Contact NJASL Standards Chair Amy Rominiecki at
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The New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL) believes that every student in every school in New Jersey deserves to be served by a resource-rich school library program that is staffed by a state certified full-time School Library Media Specialist who can help schools meet standards by enhancing learning to fully prepare students to excel in college and the workplace.

NJASL is the professional organization for school librarians in the state of New Jersey. NJASL advocates high standards for librarianship and library media programs in the public, private, and parochial schools in New Jersey to ensure that students and staff become effective users of information. Learn more about NJASL by visiting www.njasl.org. For more information, email president@njasl.org.