

# HOW YOUR SLMS CAN SUPPORT YOUR DISTRICT & BUILDING GOALS



## ACCELERATED LEARNING

SLMSs cultivate and nurture a love of reading, a key skill that will help address learning deficits created by COVID. SLMSs work with every student every year that student is in the school. This fosters personalized learning - SLMSs put the right book in the right hands at the right time and they know which digital resources can best support student learning. They provide resource access to the entire school community. With a strong budget, they are able to purchase materials to build a collection that is current, diverse, and addresses a range of abilities. They also have access to a network of libraries from around the country to provide even more resources for students and staff.

## EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION

SLMSs support equity, diversity, and inclusion in myriad ways. They analyze their collection to ensure there are materials that represent marginalized groups. SLMSs ensure that students are able to see themselves reflected in books, they promote books written by authors who have lived the experiences of the characters in their books, and they ensure that the nonfiction collection contains materials that cover a variety of perspectives and experiences. EDI is a strategic priority for NJASL and SLMSs have the opportunity to participate in EDI professional development through the state organization and its affiliates.



## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

For many students, the school library is a safe space - a judgment-free zone where they can select any book they want regardless of their reading level. School libraries provide access to books about mental health, physical and emotional development, and sensitive topics. SLMSs are able to provide bibliotherapy: "a therapeutic approach employing books and other forms of literature, typically alongside more traditional therapy modalities, to support a patient's mental health. to struggling students." (Psychology Today)

Many SLMSs have added makerspaces to their library programs. Maker activities encourage collaboration, critical thinking, perseverance, problem-solving, and creativity. They provide opportunities for students to experiment and explore in a low-stress environment.



## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Is your SLMS a member of NJASL? NJASL's mission is to provide members with educational opportunities and access to current information aligned with state and national learning standards.

Membership provides ongoing professional development opportunities and support for New Jersey's SLMSs. Encourage your SLMS to [become a member](#).

Reference:

"Bibliotherapy." *Psychology Today*, Sussex Publishers, 2021, [www.psychologytoday.com/us/therapy-types/bibliotherapy](http://www.psychologytoday.com/us/therapy-types/bibliotherapy). Accessed 1 Sept. 2021

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