



MARYLAND

ASSOCIATION OF

SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

Stance Against Disinformation, Violence, and Racism

Position

Whether in the library, the class, the school community, the state of Maryland, or any state or principality of the world, the Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL) stands united against all forms of disinformation, violence, and racism.

The Maryland School Library Media Standards state that school libraries, “demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to inclusiveness and respect for diversity in the learning community.” It has become apparent that fostering information literacy skills and standing against disinformation is more important than ever. Recent events and the increasing vitriol within our society have made the role of the school librarian and that of school libraries more important than ever.

Without access to formal learning of information literacy and digital citizenship skills, students will not have the opportunity to think critically and thrive in an environment of fast-moving news and social media. We believe that school librarians are one of the first lines of defense in our democracy and in educating students to find the truth, read widely, search laterally, and make informed decisions.

An important role of the school librarian is to teach information literacy, digital citizenship, and research skills; an understood role within the profession is a desire to embrace equity, diversity, and inclusion.

School libraries are places for the entire school community and as such are proponents for equality and access. MASL recognizes, embraces, and celebrates that school libraries and school librarians serve as an apparatus of justice and inclusion. As such, MASL will speak up and speak out whenever injustice and exclusion occur.

References

Maryland State Department of Education. (2019). Maryland School Library Media Standards.<http://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Documents/03262019/TabO-LibraryStandards.pdf>.

Disclaimer

The position taken by the Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL) represents the organization and cannot be applied to individual members or groups affiliated with the association without their direct confirmation.

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