Empowering Learners: Guidelines For School Library Media Programs
As we approach the second decade of the twenty-first century, school library media programs continue to undergo momentous changes that have heightened the importance of technology and evidence-based learning. The focus has moved from the library as a confined place to one with fluid boundaries that is layered by diverse needs and influenced by an interactive global community. Guiding principles for school library media programs must focus on building a flexible learning environment with the goal of producing successful learners skilled in multiple literacies. Defining the future direction of school library media programs is the purpose of the newest set of guidelines from the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), entitled Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Media Programs

Am I way off base here or did School Library Media Centres really need another set of guidelines? This thin volume outlines a more current set of standards/guidelines without saying very much new. I am beginning to think that saying something/anything is the new coin of the realm (I am part of this answer/problem with this review). As I write this, I have read 1/2 of the item and so far is seems like wishful thinking. Working with teachers, an administration and students is a struggle. Coming up with standards is only a goal and I don’t think that it has much to do with the day to day reality. Perhaps, I am happier with the previous set of goals/standards set forth in "Information power: building partnerships for learning" To add injury to insult is the price of this item. In considering the
"usable" text, the price comes down to almost $1.00/page. This is something which should have been posted on the Internet, especially if AASL wanted to make it available to all stakeholders.

The updated version (Sept. 2009) of the Library Media Specialist Praxis exam by ETS is now based on this book (instead of Information Power). Good to know, and good luck!

This book is a dud & does not provide any useable info. It is basically AASL/ALA hoopla. Any time these organizations publish books it is only to make money off MLIS students who are forced to purchase them for courses. The AASL needs to get into the real world of school libraries so something useful comes from the organization.

This is a good reference piece, but I’m not happy with the Kindle version. The citations are oddly placed and there aren’t any pictures—and if this is not because it’s a Kindle version, buck up ALA and get some pictures into your book!

If you are a teacher that got hired as a Media Specialist or School Librarian, but lack the actual certification, do your kids a favor and read this. I have to read it for an MLS class. It’s not very long and will at least give you an idea of the philosophy you should espouse and the role you should fill as a Library Media Specialist. You’re not just a reading teacher and if that’s what you’re doing, you’re doing it wrong.

This book is highly idealistic. After reading it, I felt like a librarian is expected to be this magical creature zipping around doing everyone’s job for them with no funding and no support staff. For the length, it should have been a pamphlet downloadable from the AASL.

Any of the AASL books are a must for any school librarian. When administration asks why or is looking for "best practices," I go straight to this and others that AASL publish. This "Empowers" us as school librarians. It is our professional standards...our go-to for what we do.

This was certainly a lot less than I expected and didn’t have the information that I needed. I could have authored a better document!

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