



# Massachusetts School Library Association

## Massachusetts Library Association Youth Services Section

### *Joint Statement*

### **School and Public Library Collaboration to Meet the Information Needs of Children and Young Adults in Massachusetts**

#### **Philosophy**

Both school and public libraries are necessary to enable each child to develop to his/her fullest potential through life-long learning. Members of the Massachusetts School Library Media Association (MSLMA) and the Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) strive to provide school and public libraries with safe, welcoming environments, appropriate resources, and caring, knowledgeable staff. Professional librarians encourage cooperation, support resource sharing and promote each other's programs and services for all children in the Commonwealth.

#### **Vision**

School library teachers and public library youth services professionals collaborate to ensure that young people have the skills and resources necessary to succeed as lifelong learners.

#### **Strategies**

In order to build collaborative relationships and deliver successful school and public library services to Massachusetts children and young adults, librarians should:

#### **Interact and communicate with your school/public library counterpart:**

- ❖ Anticipate a program or service need
- ❖ Know each other's mission and role
- ❖ Take initiative for a program or service
- ❖ Respect and rely on each other's knowledge and expertise
- ❖ Recognize the importance of interaction
- ❖ Commit to teambuilding

#### **Participate in a comprehensive joint planning process:**

- ❖ Commit to planning during professional development time
- ❖ Establish in-house goals and procedures
- ❖ Identify common goals
- ❖ Involve key people
- ❖ Report outcomes
- ❖ Evaluate the process

#### **Assume a leadership role:**

- ❖ Recognize new opportunities
- ❖ Acknowledge fluid roles of responsibility
- ❖ Demonstrate a commitment to respond to immediate needs
- ❖ Choose a strategy to deliver improved services
- ❖ Implement changes
- ❖ Advocate for necessary resources

#### **Provide a process for evaluation:**

- ❖ Establish rubrics, goals and objectives
- ❖ Describe outcomes
- ❖ Review and revise strategies and actions
- ❖ Publicize and exchange results

#### **Ensure the availability of resources:**

- ❖ Use the MSLMA/MLA Joint Mission documents on the MLA and MSLMA web sites
- ❖ Make a commitment to cooperation, collaboration and communication
- ❖ Advocate for adequate professional staffing
- ❖ Prioritize collection development with adequate budget to purchase materials
- ❖ Provide access to regional library resources and programs for youth and staff