

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



From: Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA)
Contact: Georgina Trebbe, MSLA Advocacy Co-chair, gtrebbe@hwsd.org

April 13, 2020 - **The Virtual School Librarian is Live.** School librarians from across the Commonwealth are coming together to provide virtual library services to all students, families, and teachers during the current crisis. The Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA) in collaboration with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), the Massachusetts Library System (MLS), and the Boston Public Library (BPL) has launched a new resource called [Virtual School Librarian](https://guides.masslibsystem.org/VirtualSchoolLibrarian) (<https://guides.masslibsystem.org/VirtualSchoolLibrarian>) in order for students without a certified school librarian to have equal access to vital State-funded information resources and professional guidance including a form to submit questions to a school librarian.

The site offers several resources:

- **“Ask a School Librarian”** webform for library assistance. Volunteers from MSLA will monitor the site on a daily basis. “We will encourage the “local” school librarian to respond whenever possible but recognize the current circumstances might pose challenges to this,” said Laura Luker, MSLA President. “Our goal is to support all students regardless of their access to a school librarian during this crisis. We will strive to reply to all questions within 24 hours and sooner upon request. We have many online resources at our fingertips, including all state-supported content* and donated content from several information providers. We invite questions from all who need information from their school library,” Ms. Luker explained.
- **Statewide Library Resources:** The link is provided by the MBLC. Because libraries are closed to the public at this time, the links to virtual resources are quite valuable and MBLC encourages their wide use.
- **Boston Public Library eCard Registration:** Additional online resources are available to all Massachusetts residents through this partially state-supported resource. Paper books and other library materials will also be available when BPL reopens.
- **Coronavirus (Covid-19) Resources** from the MLS

**Provided jointly with state and federal funds by the MBLC Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and MLS Massachusetts Library System*

About MSLA - The MSLA is an association of school librarians, supporters of school libraries, and other stakeholders. MSLA hosts many professional development events and an annual conference to support our 700 members in education leadership and best practices. Our vision is a high-quality school library program and librarian in all Commonwealth schools.

Massachusetts School Library Association
PO Box 336, Wayland, MA 01778
<https://www.maschoollibraries.org/>