



Massachusetts School Library Association

*School Libraries:
what can we help you discover today?*

MSLA AWARDS: COMPLETE DESCRIPTIONS

ALL AWARDS: Nominations are made using an online form (posted in the Fall and available through the deadline, usually mid-January).

PAGE 2: **Administrator Advocate Award:** *Recognizes administrators promoting school library programs.*

Gallagher Legislator Award: *Recognizes a Massachusetts legislator demonstrating belief in the value of school libraries.*

PAGE 3: **Research Grant:** Supports individuals doing innovative research in the school library field.

Peggy Hallisey Lifetime Achievement *honors a member's lifetime contributions.*

PAGE 4: **PALS (Parents as Library Supporters):** *Recognizes outstanding collaboration between a parent/teacher organization and the school library.*

School Library Advocate Award: *honors public figures demonstrating a belief in school libraries.*

PAGE 5: **Friend Scholarship** *Granted to a Massachusetts student in a school library certification master's program.*

Service Award *recognizes school librarian dedication and leadership at state/national level; MSLA members who have made significant contributions to MSLA.*

PAGE 6: **Ellen Berne Pathfinder** *celebrates innovative school library programming.*

Web Seal of Excellence *recognizes excellence in a school library's use of web tools.*

PAGE 7: **President's Award** *honors new school librarians making an impact on student learning.*

M.S.L.A. (MA Super Librarian Accolade) *Recognizes exemplary School Librarians.*



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Administrator Advocate Award: *Recognizes administrators promoting school library programs.*

DESCRIPTION: This award honors those administrators who have made significant contributions to the promotion of effective school library programs and services. These contributions include increased staff, program promotion, community relations, legislation for library programs and services. It recognizes the significant impact of the school administrator in developing successful school library programs within their own schools that influence the community at large.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: City, town, or district school superintendents, assistant superintendents, and building principals currently in administrative office and directly responsible for a school/group of schools at any level, are eligible for nomination by a member of MSLA.

NOMINATION PROCESS: Complete the online form, available on the MSLA Awards webpage.

The nominator must indicate that the administrator has a significant impact on the school library programs, actively supports the need for certified school library personnel in developing effective school library programs that promote student achievement. Additional documentation in the form of articles, newsletters, and other publicity may be submitted. **Email** any supporting documents within 10 days of completing this nomination to awards@maschoolibraries.org.

Gallagher Legislator Award: *Recognizes a Massachusetts legislator demonstrating belief in the value of school libraries.*

Joan Gallagher was a dedicated professional and a feisty fighter, with a wry sense of humor. As Past President and Legislative Chair, she demonstrated sincere commitment, dogged determination, and gentle tenacity in raising the status of school libraries across the Commonwealth. She empowered her colleagues with the slogan, "If we all do a little, we can accomplish so much."

MSLA has established this award in remembrance of our friend and colleague, a champion for legislation to insure that all students have equitable access to school library programs, professional staff and current resources.

DESCRIPTION: Through this annual award, MSLA recognizes the efforts of a legislator in Massachusetts who has, either within that calendar year or in the recent past, publicly demonstrated the value of school libraries by performing legislative duties that have an impact on the profession of school librarianship and education of Massachusetts school children.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: The legislator recipient of this award demonstrates a commitment to advancing the role of the school library program and its staff in the educational process and works to introduce or support legislation that provides equity and current resources to students across the Commonwealth.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: The MSLA Executive Board, upon the recommendation of the Legislative Committee, will vote to present this award to a deserving legislator. This award may not be presented if the recipient is not a suitable recipient.

AWARD: A plaque

RESPONSIBILITIES: Publicity photographs



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Research Grant: *Supports individuals doing innovative research in the school library field.*

DESCRIPTION: MSLA offers an annual \$3,000 grant to aid researchers in their attempts to add to the knowledge base of school library programs in Massachusetts through innovative research aimed at measuring and evaluating the impact of school library programs on learning and education in Massachusetts.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: Preference will be given to applicants who are enrolled in an accredited college or university. Their formal proposal must already have been accepted by the appropriate officials at the college or university. Research could be for a degree, or for a class. Proposals from library educators and professionals in the field will also be considered. Membership in MSLA at the time of application is necessary. Important considerations include: attention to the purpose of the grant; intellectual quality of the proposal; potential for significant impact on school libraries; completeness of the application.

AWARD FUNDING: Up to \$3,000 in grant money from MSLA to help researchers defray expenses such as postage, paper, printing, statistics experts, and other related expenses. It could be one grant of \$3,000, or many grants that total no more than \$3,000 in one fiscal year. No hardware or software would be included in expenses.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The winner of the MSLA Research grant must agree to:

- submit a six month progress report, present the results of their research at the MSLA annual conference in the year following the year of their grant
- publish a summary of the research findings in the MSLA Forum.
- give an accounting of expenses with receipts in order to be reimbursed. One third (1/3) of the award will be withheld until all obligations with MSLA are met.

NOMINATION PROCESS: Complete the online nomination form, linked from the MSLA Awards page.

Email any supporting documents within 10 days of completing the online form: awards@maschoollibraries.org

Peggy Hallisey Lifetime Achievement: *Honors a member's lifetime contributions.*

DESCRIPTION: This award is given to a member of MSLA who has contributed to the profession of school librarianship during the course of his/her 10+ year career. The honoree has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to the service of students and 21st century learning and the advancement of school libraries.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: Not contingent upon retirement, this award honors a School Librarian or Director of Libraries whose career in school libraries has spanned 10 or more years. The individual has been a member of MSLA for a minimum of 7 years and has (or held if retired) state certification as a School Librarian or holds a MLS degree. Up to three awards may be given, but this award does not need to be given if a suitable recipient is not nominated.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: Complete the nomination form on the MSLA Awards webpage. A nomination may be made by any member of MSLA. The MSLA Executive Board will vote to award this recognition. Email any supporting documents within 10 days of completing this nomination to awards@maschoollibraries.org.

AWARD: Lifetime membership in MSLA, and a commemoration of MSLA's gratitude.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Article for the Forum within one month of notification, written by nomination contributors / an article written by the honoree.



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PALS (Parents as Library Supporters): *Recognizes outstanding collaboration between a parent/teacher organization and the school library.*

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: Recipients may be any parent/teacher group working within a school or district, including PTAs, PTOs, or other parent/teacher groups with similar missions. In any given year, multiple groups may be recognized, but recipients may not be chosen each year. Entries are judged by a panel of school librarians.

NOMINATION PROCESS: Fill out the form on the MSLA Awards page, including a description of the collaboration in 400-700 words. Please include detail about the goal, the program itself, and the results of the collaboration. In addition, please:

- Submit a letter from the principal, superintendent, or other administrator in support of the application that describes the project and the collaboration between the parent/teacher organization and the school library.
- Submit a letter from the parent/teacher organization highlighting parental involvement in the project.
- **EMAIL** supporting documents within 10 days of completing this nomination to awards@maschoolibraries.org.

EXAMPLES of eligible collaboration efforts:

- Advocacy—promoting one or more school libraries in the district, or at the community level, or state level
- Funding materials and programs for the library
- Innovative programming for students (one book/one school, reading incentives)
- Programs encouraging parents to read with children, or other family literacy projects
- Public relations and media coverage of library events and services
- Continuing education stipends and scholarships for library staffs
- Engaging businesses, organizations, colleges, or public libraries in school library activities
- Empowering the school administration to allocate resources for the library to achieve the school library standards
- Empowering the school administration to make the library accessible to students on a flexible schedule
- Partnering with a local public or college/university library on a program or project

AWARD PRESENTATION: Recipient(s) are recognized with a certificate at the MSLA Conference.

The nominating School Librarian will write an article for publication in the MSLA Forum within one month of notification.

School Library Advocate Award: *Honors public figures demonstrating a belief in school libraries.*

DESCRIPTION: The honoree will have advocated for school libraries in ways that have made a significant difference, especially those in Massachusetts. Potential recipients may be state officials, regional or local educators, teachers, or administrators. In any given year, the award may be given to multiple people or to a group.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: Potential recipients may be State officials, regional or local educators, teachers, or administrators. In any given year, the award may be given to multiple people or to a group.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: Complete the online nomination form, available on the MSLA webpage. The MSLA Executive Board will vote to present this award to a deserving individual/group based on the evidence of advocacy. The Executive Board may give multiple awards in any year, but does not have to be given each year.

AWARD: A plaque. Winner will be honored at the annual conference or Legislative Day and grant photo permissions to for MSLA publications.



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Friend Scholarship *Granted to a Massachusetts student in a school library certification master's program.*

Audrey Friend, a role model for library teachers entering the profession, is an original founder of our state school library association. Throughout her career, she promoted the role of library teachers and library programs as integral components of the teaching and learning process. She has also been a strong advocate of school public library cooperation and was inducted into the MLA Hall of Fame in 1998. She served as the MSLMA liaison to MLA and other educational organizations for over 25 years. This award honors Audrey's dedication and selflessness.

DESCRIPTION: The Massachusetts School Library Association recognizes the importance of having certified library personnel in all schools and is aware of the ever-increasing costs of attaining the degree and/or certification necessary to become a library teacher. For this reason, MSLA wishes to demonstrate its commitment to our profession by sponsoring this annual scholarship award.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: The applicant must be a Massachusetts resident currently enrolled in a school library certification master's degree program with plans to attend the college or university during the next school year. S/he should also have a demonstrated need for financial aid.

NOMINATION PROCESS: Complete the online nomination form, available on the MSLA webpage.

Please include all of the following:

- Completed nomination form including a personal essay stating reasons for entering the school library profession.
- Resume including community service and education-related activities
- Financial need information.
- A copy of the college or university acceptance letter or a letter from the program director
- Email any supporting documents within 10 days of completing the online nomination to awards@maschoollibraries.org

AWARD: \$500.00; one-year MSLA membership; paid registration for that year's conference.

The committee may award up to 2 scholarships per year.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Write an article for the MSLA Forum within one month of notification.

Service Award: *Recognizes school librarian dedication and leadership at state/national level; MSLA members who have made significant contributions to MSLA.*

DESCRIPTION: This individual has demonstrated dedication to the profession of school librarianship through leadership at the state and possibly at the national level.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: The nominee will have a long-standing record of service to MSLA, and have demonstrated leadership of school librarians within the state or nationally. This nominee has represented MSLA members in areas of advocacy, public relations, or other public forum and worked to make MSLA an organization that leads the profession of school librarianship.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: Complete an online nomination form, available on the MSLA Awards webpage. Up to three awards may be given each year. The Awards Committee will make recommendations to the MSLA Executive Board and they will make the final decision.

AWARD: Plaque

RESPONSIBILITIES: Write an article for the MSLA Forum within one month of notification.



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Ellen Berne Pathfinder: Celebrates innovative school library programming.

Ellen Berne was a pioneer in the field of digital school librarianship during the late 1980s and early 90s; she developed an index to the Internet, one of the first Subject Indexes. Her leadership made a positive difference in the use of the Internet, furthered the importance of library teachers, and enabled students to achieve better results when using the Internet. This Pathfinder Award celebrates groundbreaking developments in School Librarianship that promote student learning and is a fitting memorial to the life and work of Ellen Berne.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: The applicant must be a Massachusetts school librarian who is state-certified or who has a professional degree as a school librarian and been a member of MSLA for the past 3 years. The project or program must break new ground in the field of school librarianship and make a positive difference in the school/district's library program and/or affect in a positive way school libraries on a state and national level.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: A letter of nomination may be written by the school librarian or by another member of the educational community (principal, co-teacher, superintendent). It should give specific details of the innovation, explaining how it enhances the school library program and promotes student learning. Accompanying pictures/exhibits that would assist in the explanation of the project/program are welcomed.

Completed nomination should include:

- Completed nomination form including a detailed description of the innovation and its impact on school libraries and student learning.
- Documentation that explains the program and its innovations.
- Detailed documents explaining its positive impact on school libraries and how it enhances the school library program and student learning.
- Accompanying pictures/exhibits that would assist in the explanation of the project/program are welcomed.

EMAIL any supporting documents within 10 days of completing this nomination to awards@maschoolibraries.org.

AWARD: A plaque

RESPONSIBILITIES: Creation of a tabletop display for the Awards Expo at the spring conference and an article for the MSLA Forum within one month of notification.

Web Seal of Excellence recognizes excellence in a school library's use of web tools.

DESCRIPTION: A school library's web presence is an important tool for teaching, learning, communication, advocacy, and public relations. This award will recognize excellence in a school library's use of web tools.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: School Library webpage must be maintained by the School Librarian who has been a member of MSLA for at least 2 years and holds a professional library degree or be a state certified library teacher. Nominations will be evaluated using a rubric with specific criteria for judging the web devices. Judging panel will use the rubric with specific criteria for school library web devices:

<http://www.maschoolibraries.org/uploads/5/7/2/2/57223027/sealofexcellencecriteria.pdf>

NOMINATION PROCESS: Complete the online nomination form available on the MSLA Awards webpage.

AWARD: Up to six awards per year: Certificate; Graphic, MSLA "Seal of Excellence" to be displayed on their webpage with year won.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Write an article for the MSLA Forum within one month of notification.



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President's Award: *Honors new school librarians making an impact on student learning.*

DESCRIPTION: This award honors an MSLA member who in a career of five years or less, has made a significant contribution to student learning through a strong school library program.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: This award recognizes MSLA members who are new school librarians with at least three but not more than five years of experience in the profession. The nominee must have a professional library degree or state certification as a school librarian. Nominee must have an endorsement from the MSLA Area Directors.

NOMINATION PROCESS: Complete the nomination form. MSLA Area Directors will select from the nominees and recommend one nominee per area to the Awards Committee. If there are no suitable nominees, the award will not be presented. There will be a maximum of six (6) awards per year.

AWARD: Certificate

RESPONSIBILITIES: Creation of a tabletop display for the Awards Expo at the spring conference and an article for the MSLA Forum within one month of notification.

M.S.L.A. (MA Super Librarian Accolade): *Recognizes exemplary School Librarians.*

One award per MSLA area is given each year, for a total of six awards. Winners may be re-nominated for this award in the third year after last receiving it. Members who wish to nominate themselves or a colleague may submit this application which will be sent to the MSLA Area Directors.

Excellence can be demonstrated in one or more of the following categories:

- Understanding of students' diverse social, emotional and intellectual needs by creating a unique and welcoming learning commons
- Integrating information literacy standards for student learning and technology into the content and objectives of the school's curriculum in interesting and unique ways
- Providing leadership in collaborative program planning and teaching to ensure both physical and intellectual access to information
- Making a significant contribution to the school which has been documented by standardized test scores, winning a grant, exemplary change, or any other notable example of excellence

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: Each region will make a nomination; the Area Directors' Award nominee:

- Is a current Massachusetts school librarian and member of MSLA for the past 3 years
- Has a professional library degree or state certification as a library teacher
- Demonstrates excellence by creating an outstanding School Library program that has made a significant contribution to their school as listed in the description above.

If a region does not have a suitable nominee for an award, the region will not be represented for that year.

NOMINATION PROCESS: Complete the nomination form. MSLA Area Directors will select from the nominees and recommend one nominee per area to the Awards Committee for a maximum of six (6) awards.

AWARD: Certificate

RESPONSIBILITIES: Creation of a tabletop display for the Awards Expo at the spring conference and an article for the MSLA Forum within one month of notification.