
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 279

Hearing Date: July 16, 2025

Author: Patel

Version: June 23, 2025

Urgency: No

Fiscal: Yes

Consultant: Therresa Austin

Subject: School libraries: model library standards

SUMMARY

Requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), on or before July 1, 2028, and every eight years thereafter, in consultation with the State Board of Education (SBE) to consider recommending revisions to the standards for school library services. The bill also establishes a process by which those recommended revisions shall be developed and considered.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Requires the governing board of each school district to provide school library services for the pupils and teachers of the district by establishing and maintaining school libraries or by contractual arrangements with another public agency. (Education Code (EC) § 18100)
- 2) Requires the SBE to adopt standards, rules, and regulations for school library services. (EC § 18101)
- 3) Requires that, when the English language arts/English language development (ELA/ELD) curriculum framework is next revised, the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) consider incorporating the Model Library Standards, and consider media literacy standards at each grade level. (EC § 33548 (b))
- 4) Requires the IQC to consider incorporating media literacy content into the mathematics, science, and history-social science curriculum frameworks and instructional materials when those frameworks are next revised and instructional materials are thereafter adopted. (EC § 33548 (c)(1))
- 5) Requires the IQC to consider including the Model Library Standards, including media content literacy, when ELA/ELD instructional materials are next considered. (EC § 33548 (c)(2))
- 6) “Media literacy” means the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and use media and encompasses the foundational skills that lead to digital citizenship. (EC § 51206.4(a)(2))

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Requires the SPI, on or before July 1, 2028, and every eight years thereafter, in consultation with the SBE to consider recommending revisions to the standards for school library services.
- 2) Requires the SPI, if they decide to recommend revisions to the SBE, to convene a group of experts in the field of literacy, technology, and media to assist the SPI in developing recommended revisions to the standards for school library services.
 - a) Requires the SPI, in consultation with SBE, to select experts that include, but are not necessarily limited to, all of the following:
 - i) Teachers who work regularly with trending technologies, media literacy, artificial intelligence, and social media in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive.
 - ii) Credentialed teacher librarians.
 - iii) Schoolsite principals.
 - iv) School district or county office of education administrators.
 - v) University professors.
 - vi) Representatives of private sector business or industry with a background in technology, media, and social media.
 - vii) Representatives from nonprofit organizations or institutions of higher education with expertise in multilingual learners, a background in multilingual education, or both.
 - b) Requires the SPI, in consultation with the SBE, to ensure that one half of the members of the group are credentialed teacher librarians.
- 3) Requires the SPI, in consultation with the IQC, to hold a minimum of two public hearings to allow the public to provide input on the recommended revisions.
- 4) Requires the SPI, within 18 months of convening the group of experts, to present to the SBE the revised content standards for school library services.
- 5) Requires SBE to adopt, reject, or modify any recommended revisions to the content standards, within four months of the presentation of recommended revisions.

- a) Requires the SBE to provide written reasons for its revisions during a publicly noticed meeting if it chooses to modify the revised content standards recommended by the SPI.
 - i) Prohibits the SBE from adopting the revised content standards at the same meeting it provides its written reasons and instead requires that they be adopted during a subsequent meeting.
 - b) Requires the SBE to transmit a written explanation of the reasons for rejection of the revised content standards to the SPI, the Governor, and the appropriate policy and fiscal committee, if it chooses to reject the content standards.
- 6) Makes the operation of the provisions of this bill subject to an appropriation.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “Libraries are a fundamental part of our schools and communities at large. They are learning centers and are crucial to student literacy. In our current times, there is not just a need for reading and writing literacy but also media literacy. As we know, technology has transformed media in the last decade. This new landscape requires new resources for students to better interact and learn. However, our library standards have not been updated in 15 years. By updating these standards, we will better engage in the technological world we live in and prepare our students for the media they consume.”
- 2) ***Model School Library Standards for California Schools.*** The [California Model School Library Standards for California Schools](#), adopted by the SBE in 2010, recognize that school libraries have evolved from simply providing print materials to offering rich selections of print, media, and digital resources; from teaching basic reading literacy to teaching information literacy (the ability to access, evaluate, use, and integrate information and ideas effectively). According to the California Department of Education (CDE), the library standards include two types of standards:
 - a) “School Library Standards for Students” that delineate what students should know and be able to do at each grade level or grade span to enable students to succeed in school, higher education, and the workforce.
 - b) “School Library Program Standards” that describe base-level staffing, resources and infrastructure, including technology, required for school library programs to be effective and help students to meet the school library standards.

The standards for students are organized into four concepts (accessing, evaluating, using, and integrating information) that span all grades. These standards are not stand-alone standards taught in isolation but are meant to be

taught collaboratively by the classroom teacher and the teacher librarian in the context of the curriculum.

While the Library Standards established important foundational language for the integration of media and technology literacy, many things have changed over the last 15 years, particularly in the ways in which students consume media and information. According to the author:

“The emergence of new technologies has transformed the media and press environments that we interact with. The dramatic increase in the use of cell phones and social media has created significant online safety issues for students. The significant use of online disinformation prevalent on the internet today were not part of the original standards and needs to be updated. Additionally, the rapidly growing use of artificial intelligence is a critical issue that should be fully integrated into the school library standards.”

At present, the CDE compiles resources on its website to support schools looking to incorporate cyber safety, media literacy, and K-12 digital citizenship within their libraries.

This bill would require the SPI and the SBE to consider revising standards for school libraries, as specified, and establish a process for developing the standards that brings in experts in literacy, technology, and media.

3) ***Related legislation.***

AB 2876 (Berman, Chapter 927, Statutes of 2024) requires the IQC to consider including the Model Library Standards, including media literacy content, in its criteria for evaluating instructional materials when the SBE next adopts ELA/ELD instructional materials, and consider incorporating artificial intelligence literacy content into the mathematics, science, and history-social science curriculum frameworks when those frameworks are next revised.

AB 873 (Berman, Chapter 815, Statutes of 2023) requires that, when the ELA/ELD curriculum framework is next revised, the IQC consider incorporating the Model Library Standards, and consider media literacy standards at each grade level; and requires the IQC to consider incorporating media literacy content into the mathematics, science, and history social science curriculum frameworks when those frameworks are next revised.

AB 2290 (Santiago, Chapter 643, Statutes of 2016) authorizes the SPI to recommend to the SBE modifications to the content standards in world languages, and authorizes the SBE to adopt, reject, or modify the modified standards by July 30, 2018.

AB 740 (Weber, 2015) would have required the SPI, by January 1, 2017, to recommend to the SBE a schedule for the regular update of academic content standards and would have granted the SBE the authority to convene academic

content standards advisory committees to update the standards. *AB 740 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.*

SUPPORT

California School Library Association (sponsor)
California Library Association
Californians Together
Los Angeles County Office of Education
TechNet
Two Individuals

OPPOSITION

None received

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