“AASL is a gathering of the most vibrant leaders from our profession from across the nation. Hearing from these inspiring speakers helps me look at my own practice to see what I can do to keep learning, growing, and improving my craft.”

MARY ANN SCHEUER, conference co-chair
MAKE THE CASE
AASL National Conference Is THE Professional Development Event for School Librarians

Why do you NEED to attend?

1. College and Career Readiness + Reading Rigor

Research shows students’ ability to independently read complex text decreases by grade. \(^1\) Percentage of students independently reading at least one book at or above their text complexity grade band:

- Grades 2-5: 24.32%
- Grades 6-8: 1.4%
- High School: 7.14%

More than 300 digital learning tools curated for AASL’s Best Websites & Apps for Teaching and Learning strengthen instruction, critical thinking skills, and inquiry with an emphasis on innovation, creativity, and collaboration. AASL has curated the best of these digital tools in the following categories:

- Manage & Organize: 59
- Content Collaboration: 51
- Curriculum Collaboration: 51
- Media Sharing: 40
- Virtual Environments: 2
- Social Networking: 54
- Digital Storytelling: 23
- Current Resources: 23
- STEAM: 20
- Social Sciences: 15
- Books: 20
- Humanities & Arts: 6

“Jason Reynolds speaks to the major concerns of our times, of helping youth find themselves in school, of young readers to talk among themselves about important issues for their generation.”

KAREN PERRY, author co-chair

“Like there are a lot of young people who hate reading. I know that many of these book-hating boys, don’t actually hate books, they hate boredom.”

AUTHOR KEYNOTE
Jason Reynolds

2. College and Career Readiness + Digital Literacy

say that digital content like videos, simulations, and animations are having the greatest impact on transforming teaching and learning. \(^3\)

identified the implementation of blended learning environments as having the greatest impact on transforming teaching and learning. \(^4\)

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“Jaime speaks our language about inquiry-based learning, project-based learning, problem solving, communication, and collaboration.”

CATHY EVANS, conference co-chair

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3. College and Career Readiness + Digital Citizenship

of U.S. job recruiters have rejected candidates based on their online reputations

of college admissions officers found something online that had a negative impact on their evaluation of a student

of teens say they have sent or posted sexually suggestive messages

of teens believe it’s okay to illegally download and share music

is the average amount lost to cyber crimes reported by teens

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AUTHOR KEYNOTE
Jason Reynolds

4. College and Career Readiness + Inquiry Learning/Research Skills

The Good

- 94% of education professionals feel students demonstrate improved learning, performance and/or achievement when technology is integrated into the curriculum.
- 50% of high school students have sought out information online to help better understand a topic studied in class.

The Bad

- 4 of the top 10 most cited websites come from user-generated websites (Wikipedia, YouTube, Yahoo! Answers and Answers.com).
- 54% of students say they would be less likely to cite sources if they didn’t have research management tools.

The Ugly

- 51% of college freshmen had a hard time learning to navigate new tools and 45% had trouble making sense of information once sources were found.
- When college freshmen were asked about the most difficult steps in conducting research:

5. College and Career Readiness + Preparers School Librarians

Sessions

The number and variety of sessions and exhibits offered at AASL’s National Conference is as varied and diverse as the role our members play within their school or district.

Find sources cited and download this infographic on the AASL17 Make the Case page at national.aasl.org/make-the-case.