Transforming School Librarians into Advocates
WITH AASL’S ESSA WORKSHOPS

COMFORT LEVELS
ADVOCATING FOR PROGRAMS
BEFORE AND AFTER
ESSA WORKSHOPS

School Librarians Said...

“AASL MAKING ESSA
EDUCATION FOR
LIBRARIANS
A PRIORITY...
MADE US FEEL LIKE PART OF A
BIGGER WHOLE.”

“ESSA GIVES
US HOPE.”

“I THINK IT WAS
A PEAK
FOR AASL
IN THE WAY THEY
CAME TOGETHER.”

“THE WORKSHOP HELPED US
UNDERSTAND
THINGS BETTER
AND FIND OUT WHAT TO
FOCUS ON.”

“EVERYONE LEFT
VERY UPBEAT AND
EMPOWERED.”

What do school librarians want from AASL?

- Customizable materials for their state.
- Messages crafted for different audiences, like parents and school boards.
- Specific information about how to advocate at the state level.
- Assistance with grant writing.
- Discussion about how ESSA language relates to the types of funding available to school libraries.

School Librarians Feel Challenged By:

- Lack of CONSISTENT MEMBER BASE in state affiliates to ADVOCATE FOR POSITIONS
- Uneven ESSA implementation by state
- Job cuts
- Uncertainty about IMLS FUNDING CUTS
- Uninformed stakeholders

School Librarians Advocate By:

- Participating in library legislative day
- Creating strategic partnerships with non-school librarians to help advocate when schedules prevent school librarians from attending ESSA related meetings
- Attending non-library meetings to network with more stakeholders
- PTO, town hall, board of education meetings, and superintendent training
- Sending e-mails to state and local listservs with action items, information, and weekly advocacy challenges