



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY  
**Dr. Darshana Patel**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, DISTRICT 76

## Fact Sheet

### PROPOSED BILL

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AB 279 requires the Instructional Quality Commission to recommend the adoption of updated Model School Library Standards, and for those to be adopted by July 1, 2028. These standards were last updated and approved in 2010.

### BACKGROUND

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The Model School Library Standards (MSLS) were drafted in 2009 by a task force of college and K-12 credentialed teacher librarians and approved in 2010 by the State Board of Education. When adopted, the standards were designed to set a groundbreaking vision for strong school library programs in California, including identifying the skills and knowledge essential for students to be information literate. Two types of standards are provided: One is focused on School Library Standards, for Students and the second addresses School Library Program Standards, which describe the base level of effective services.

### PROBLEM

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Much has changed over the last 12 years. 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.

Teacher librarians and school libraries play a significant role in developing a positive school climate, building a sense of belonging, and creating a connection between and among the broader education community. Both of these points need to be better articulated, along with the continuing media literacy crisis, in the school library standards and framework.

### SOLUTION

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Updating the MSLS will provide guidance to classroom teachers, school administrators, teacher librarians, board members and students in today's ever changing library standards and critical policy issues. This bill brings libraries up to current standards and will be adaptive for future tech as it emerges.

This bill will support teacher librarians, experts in information access, evaluation, and use, in collaborating with administrators and classroom teachers, who themselves are struggling to make sense of these issues, to include information and media literacy, including AI literacy, to educate students to be critical thinkers and users in a quickly evolving information landscape.

### SUPPORT

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California School Library Association (Sponsor)

### OPPOSITION

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None at this time.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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