



### **Position Statement on Internet Filtering**

The New Jersey Association of School Librarians recognizes the concern that students' experience on the Internet be safe, educational and rewarding. As new technologies proliferate, it is critical that we balance the extraordinary value they bring to learning and communication with responsible use and careful guidance.

Our mission, as school library media professionals, is to ensure that students and staff are **effective users of ideas and information**. We believe that information, knowledge and critical thinking skills are the best tools with which to protect our students and to prepare them for lifelong independent learning.

NJASL carries out its mission by enabling school library media specialists to teach students to be critical and discerning, to evaluate information as to source and content, and to discriminate among fact, opinion and bias.

Together with more traditional sources, the Internet has unlocked a wealth of information and data that strengthens and enhances the curriculum. In our school library media centers, students are closely supervised, guided by each school's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). A strong school library media program provides the most effective tools for safety and self-management as indicated in the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards [8.1 (Technological Literacy), 9.2 (Career Education and Consumer, Family, and Life Skills)].

We recognize that not every student has supervised Internet access at home. We know that significant access and supervision already exists in our elementary, middle and high schools. We recognize that a perfect filtering system does not exist. Some aspects of filtering may benefit students; other aspects may block legitimate sources of information, particularly in studying and evaluating social problems.

The New Jersey Association of School Librarians believes that empowering our students to make informed choices is of more benefit to our democratic society than is the strict regulation of students' use of information resources. To that end, NJASL believes that decisions regarding the use of Internet filters must remain with each local school community.

Resolved, Board of Trustees Meeting. May 9, 2000  
Amended, Board of Trustees Meeting, May 5, 2007