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To: Leadership of the School Library System Association and NYLA Section of School Librarians

State Library staff and I have had the opportunity to review the re-imagined 2019 *Empire State Information Fluency Continuum (ESIFC)* (<https://slsa-nys.libguides.com/ifc/>). Since its initial development in 2009 by the New York City School Library System / New York City Department of Education and its subsequent adoption and endorsement in 2012 by the School Library Systems Association (SLSA) and all of New York State's 41 (now 40) school library systems, the rebranded *ESIFC* has enabled New York's innovative and dedicated school librarians to build a foundation of inquiry across the state for all students. The *ESIFC* has become an important resource defining standards not only for school librarians but also for the administrators and teachers who work closely with them. The *ESIFC* clearly defines information literacy and the skills essential for critical thinking and student success in today's technology driven environment.

During 2018 and 2019, led by Dr. Barbara Stripling, primary author of the *ESIFC*, a panel of experts with representation from SLSA, the New York Library Association's Section of School Librarians and other key educational organizations revised and updated the continuum to meet the instructional needs of students in today's classrooms. The reimagined 2019 *ESIFC* focuses attention on foundational skills in pre-kindergarten, inquiry, multiple literacies, digital citizenship and civic responsibility, multiple perspectives, personalization of learning, design thinking, student voice and agency, and social and emotional growth. These are skills that librarians are adept at teaching in the library and in close collaboration with classroom teachers.

I applaud efforts to widely distribute the *Priority Skills Brochure* to librarians, teachers, administrators and parents. I also applaud the leadership of New York's School Library Systems and NYLA's Section of School Librarians for their sustained commitment to developing and continuously enhancing this helpful resource. A new generation of school librarians is entering our schools and their work with students and teachers will benefit greatly from the *ESIFC*. I strongly encourage all School Library System Directors, school librarians and the statewide library and education communities to learn about, engage with, adapt and implement the *ESIFC* statewide. As Assistant Commissioner for Libraries and State Librarian, I am honored to join those endorsing this statewide effort.

Sincerely,

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