



May 1, 2019

A K-12 continuum of the information literacy and inquiry skills that are essential for all students to learn was originally developed in 2009 by school librarians in New York City under the auspices of the Office of Library Services and Director Barbara Stripling. In 2012, the NYC Information Fluency Continuum was endorsed by the School Library System of New York State (SLSA) and renamed the Empire State Information Fluency Continuum (ESIFC). Individual school library systems throughout the state then endorsed the ESIFC through their Councils; library systems have continued to provide professional development and support for librarians to teach these information skills in collaboration with classroom teachers.

In 2019, SLSA approved re-imagining the ESIFC to adapt to the changing information, education, and technology environments, as well as the increasing diversity in our student populations. The Section of School Librarians of the New York Library Association (SSL) joined with SLSA in asking Dr. Barbara Stripling to undertake this work. This document is a result of this effort by Dr. Stripling and the feedback and perspectives of school library system directors and building-level librarians from across the state.

The re-imagined ESIFC includes increased or new attention to pre-kindergarten, multiple literacies, digital citizenship and civic responsibility, multiple perspectives, personalization of learning, design thinking, student voice and agency, and social and emotional growth. Different sections provide a PK-12 continuum of skills, identification of priority skills for every grade level, and graphic organizer assessments for the priority skills.

The heart of the ESIFC is our students. It is our mission as school librarians and educators to prepare each one of our students to develop the skills and agency to be both critical consumers and creators of information as they navigate and succeed in their academic and personal lives.

We invite all educators to collaborate with their school librarians and use the ESIFC to guide the teaching of information skills as an integral aspect of learning in every classroom and at all grade levels. Together, we can ensure student success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Stripling".

Dr. Barbara Stripling

Professor Emerita, Syracuse University

President of the American Library Association, 2013-2014

President of the New York Library Association, 2016-2017