

# NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries

September 8, 2025

## State Library Updates

### State Librarian's Update - September 2025

Please take a moment to read the [September 2025 New Jersey State Library update](#).

### Statewide Contract Changes to Zoom

The New Jersey State Library will be migrating all accounts provided through our statewide contract with Zoom Communications from Zoom Workplace Enterprise Plus to Zoom Business Meetings Licenses. [Features of Zoom Business Meetings](#). These changes will take effect on **September 9, 2025**.

The most significant change to this contract will be the elimination of the Webinars add-on. Zoom Business licenses will allow organizers to schedule meetings of unlimited length, for up to 300 attendees. Users who currently have Webinars scheduled for September 2025 and later should follow [these instructions](#) to convert their Webinars to Meetings.

In Zoom Business Meetings, organizers are able to:

- Limit access to audio and video for Participants ([View instructions](#))
- Use or limit in-Meeting chat and Q and A features
- Require registration and/or password-protected access
- Set up a Waiting Room for Participants
- Place Participants in Breakout Rooms
- Record Meetings
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Users can [review the full list of differences between Meetings and Webinars here](#).

# The Four Pillars of Information Literacy in New Jersey - \*Dates have been updated\*

The dates for the second series of workshops on Information Literacy, *The Four Pillars of Information Literacy in New Jersey* have been updated. Join Jen Nelson, Linda Braun, and Ang Coxen, for a 4-part series of workshops designed to familiarize you with the core principles driving New Jersey's emerging K-12 information literacy student learning standards. [Sign up for one or all sessions](#).

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## Expanding Digital Literacy Grant Program

Public libraries can apply for up to \$25,000 to develop and implement digital skills programs in their communities. Selected projects will increase confidence and technology skills in participants, with a focus on underserved populations. Deadline to apply: **September 12, 2025**. [View guidelines and application instructions](#).

### Become a Grant Application Reviewer!

We're currently looking for reviewers to read and score Expanding Digital Literacy Grant Program applications from public libraries. Reviewers can come from any type or size of library, and no prior experience is required. If you're interested, [please apply to be a reviewer](#) by **September 12, 2025**.

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## Pilot Program: Information Literacy Learning Activities

The New Jersey State Library is looking for school library media specialists and/or classroom teachers interested in piloting the developing set of Learning Activities focused on Teaching Information Literacy in New Jersey. Individuals who attended the first or second series of Pillars of Information Literacy workshops will receive preference in selection. [Register now to attend the second series scheduled for October 2025](#). Please share this information with your public school partners!

If you would like more information about becoming a pilot participant, please [complete an online form](#).

[Attend an informational webinar about the Pilot](#) that will be held on **Wednesday, September 17th at 3:30 pm**. Registration is not required.

Please contact Jen Nelson ([jnelson@njstatelib.org](mailto:jnelson@njstatelib.org)) for additional information about the Teaching Information Literacy activities described above.

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## Updates for the Freedom to Read Act

The model policies and forms, plus a compliance document, for the Freedom to

Read Act are now posted on the [NJSL website](#). Technical assistance sessions on implementing the model policies will be held in October 2025. Please contact Jen Nelson ([jnelson@njstatelib.org](mailto:jnelson@njstatelib.org)) with any questions.

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## Proposed Changes to N.J.A.C. 15:21 State Library Aid and Grants and 15:22 Library Network Services

The [proposed changes are available for public comment](#) and were published in the August 4, 2025, NJ Register. Comments may be submitted through **October 3, 2025**.

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## News from Around the State

### LibraryLinkNJ Mental Health First Aid Fall Sessions

LibraryLinkNJ will be offering free, virtual Mental Health First Aid training sessions again this Fall! Staff in any position from any library type are invited to register for this training course taught by certified Mental Health First Aid instructors from Hackensack Meridian Health.

Upcoming Fall 2025 Sessions Include

- [Youth Mental Health First Aid Training](#); Thursday, September 18th, 9:00am-1:30pm. **Registration is now open and limited to 30; sign up today!**
- [Adult Mental Health First Aid Training](#); Thursday, October 30th, 9:00AM-2:30PM; *Registration coming soon!*

Questions? Contact Darby Malvey, LLNJ Programming & Outreach Manager: [darby@librarylinknj.org](mailto:darby@librarylinknj.org)

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## National Opportunities

### Increased Public Library Usage Shown by IMLS Survey Data

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has released the latest data from its Public Libraries Survey (PLS). Since 1988, the PLS has provided an annual national census of America's public libraries. This year's data make clear that public libraries remain one of the most trusted and utilized institutions in American

## Library Card Sign-up Month Marketing Materials

Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month 2025 with the theme "One Card, Endless Possibilities." There's no celebrity spokesperson this year, so the focus is on your library and your community. Every library is different, and so is every library's potential to grow cardholder numbers by identifying and reaching people who are currently missing out. [Access social media graphics, tools, and ideas for promoting Library Card Sign-up Month](#) provided by the American Library Association.

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## NJSL Presents Events

Our NJSL Presents Webinars are free and open to anyone interested in attending. Registration is required in advance and [all webinars are recorded and posted to our YouTube page](#) afterward. You can also [check out event recaps on our blog](#)! Here's what we have coming up in September, feel free to share within your communities.

- [Before the IEP](#) - September 9th @ noon
  - [New Rules for Fall Garden Cleanup](#) - September 17th @ noon
  - [Protecting Your Personal Information in Today's Digital World](#) - September 24th @ noon
  - [A Century of Cuban Music in New Jersey Online](#) - September 29th @ noon
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## Professional Development Opportunities

Visit the State Library's [CE Training webpage](#) for a variety of Continuing Education training opportunities for New Jersey librarians, library support staff, and trustees.

[On-Demand Training Portal](#) in the LibraryLinkNJ LearningSpace and [a list of training programs](#) currently being offered.

[Professional Development Links](#) and [Webinars and Other Training Events](#) from the NJLA Professional Development Committee.

Check out the upcoming LYRASIS CE opportunities on their [calendar here](#).

[Click here for a monthly national list](#) of CE and Professional Development opportunities.

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## Library Marketing Resources

If your library is looking for marketing tips, best practices and inspiration, [check out our Marketing Blog](#) updated monthly. Here's our most recent blog posts:

- [How to Create Better Hyperlinks for Accessibility](#)
- [Spotify Playlists for Library Programs](#)
- [Learn More About the New Instagram Edits App](#)
- [Grab Patrons' Attention With These Videos](#)
- [Understanding the Algorithm](#)

Download sharable social media graphics and videos from the [Statewide Digital Marketing Campaign](#).

Also, you can [download marketing resources from State Library Vendors & Partners](#).

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