



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Library Is *Open***

New Jersey librarians are available to assist students, despite closure of buildings due to the COVID-19 coronavirus

On behalf of the New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL) and the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA), we are excited to announce the launch of [The Library Is Open](#) landing page to connect students, parents, teachers, and school administrators with direct access to the information, resources, and answers they need.

While many school and public libraries are physically closed due to the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak in New Jersey, librarians are still ready to assist students.

In addition to this growing, curated list of authoritative information and resources, ***The Library Is Open*** also features a live chat service with certified New Jersey librarians, available Monday through Friday 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

The NJASL/NJLA Joint Task Force of School Libraries has been working around the clock to offer reputable resources for administrators, teachers, parents and students. The chat service will provide live one-on-one assistance, and help students find free, reputable, reliable resources that they can access in NJ.

As a collaboration between school and public libraries, we hope to connect students, parents, teachers, and administrators to the virtual services and resources offered by the public libraries

in their communities, too. This partnership will help improve the equity issues students are facing in districts across the state, and assist schools that may not have funding or the ability to access or offer these services.

We also hope to share with teachers and administrators the multitude of reputable and reliable resources we have managed to curate, and help public libraries in their efforts to support students and parents in their local communities.

For more information, please visit [unlockstudentpotential.org/index.php/library-is-open](https://unlockstudentpotential.org/index.php/library-is-open). We encourage all to share this curated list of authoritative resources, and the corresponding live chat service. Our librarians are standing by!

### About NJASL

The New Jersey Association of School Librarians advocates for high standards for librarianship and library media programs in the public, private and parochial schools, in the State of New Jersey, to ensure that students and staff become effective users of information.

### About NJLA

The New Jersey Library Association advocates for the advancement of library services for the residents of New Jersey, provides continuing education and networking opportunities for librarians, and supports the principles of intellectual freedom and promotes access to library materials for all.