



## TASL Candidate Information

**Name:** Joni Harris

**Candidate Position:** Chair-Elect, TASL

- Degree, Master of Library Science
  - Institution, Texas Woman's University
  - Start Year: 2013 - End Year: 2015
- Degree, Bachelor of Education
  - Institution, Texas A&M University-Commerce
  - Start Year: 1995 - End Year: 1999

### Work Experience

- Title, Library Instructional Specialist
  - Institution, Plano ISD
  - Start Date: 07/17/2023 – Present
- Title, School Librarian
  - Institution, Garland ISD
  - Start Date: 07/20/2015 – 06/23/2023
- Title, Classroom Teacher
  - Institution, Garland ISD
  - Start Date: 08/16/1999 – 06/05/2015

### Additional Work Experience

- District Library Specialist | Plano ISD | July 2023 - Present
- Campus School Librarian | Garland ISD | 2015 - 2023

### TLA Activities

- Teacher Day TASL, Chair
  - Dates: 2023 - 2025
- Intellectual Freedom Committee, Webmaster
  - Dates: July 2024 – Present
- Conference Planning Committee, Social Media
  - Dates: 2023 – 2024
- Teacher Day TASL, Social Media Subcommittee Chair
  - Dates: 2020 – 2023

### Additional TLA Information

- Conference Planning Committee, YART Liaison (2021 – 2022)
- Children's Round Table
- Young Adult Round Table
- Library Leadership Round Table

### **Other Professional Association Membership Information**

- American Library Association, AASL
- TCEA, Lib - SIG

### **Publications and Presentations**

#### Local

- July 2023 through present - All Library professional development for PISD Librarians
- June 2022 - Promoting the School Library Training for GISD Librarians
- June 2022 - Google Level 1 Boot Camp for Garland ISD
- 2021 - 2022 Canvas Training for Campus Staff
- 2020 - Hands-on Level 1 Google Certification - Garland ISD Librarian Training
- 2020 GISD iCon - Bringing Literature to Life with Google Maps
- 2018 GISD iCon - Yes, They Can! Littlest Learners Using Chromebooks

#### Regional

- 2019 Library Expo - Flexible Scheduling in the Elementary Library
- 2018 Library Expo - Collaborative Partnerships in the School Librarian

#### State

- 2023 TLA and TCEA - Global Collaboration for the School Librarian
- 2019 TLA - Step-by-Step: How to Be an Instructional Partner
- 2019 TLA - Google Apps for Little Learners
- 2018 TCEA - Collaborative Partnerships in the School Library 2018 TLA - Team up with TexQuest

### **Honors (Awards, Prizes, Medals, etc.)**

- Tall Texans Graduate, 2022
- TASL MVP Award, 2017
- Teacher of the Year, 2000

### **Statement of Concern:**

The rise in book challenges and censorship has put school librarians at the forefront of critical issues, threatening not only intellectual freedom but also their individual well-being. As districts remove books that reflect diverse experiences, librarians face increasing stress, frustration, and isolation in their efforts to protect student access to information. Defending books is emotionally draining, leaving many librarians feeling unsupported. Addressing these challenges requires not only advocacy for intellectual freedom and diverse viewpoints but also providing professional development in self-care. Above all, librarians need support, resources, and connections with peers to maintain their well-being and continue creating inclusive library spaces.