

OASL Standards for School Libraries  
LSTA Grant Project Evaluation  
Grant Project Number: 11-05-2s  
July 28, 2012

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## **Summary of Evaluation**

This LSTA project's goal was to develop statewide K-12 curriculum standards and a model literacy skills framework for school libraries in Oregon. The project committee met its goal. Almost all objectives were met. Unmet objectives were beyond the control of the committee, and were then adjusted as necessary to carry out the intent of the objectives. Almost all work has been completed, with a few items necessarily still scheduled for the next couple of months.

## **Project Objectives**

This LSTA project objective was to develop statewide K-12 library curriculum standards and to create a framework for teaching and articulating information literacy skills. The standards are designed to help districts and library personnel make plans for library improvement. HB2586 requires all districts to describe a plan for improving their library programs in their annual CIP. When put into practice, the standards and literacy skills will increase student achievement by focusing on essential information literacy concepts, skills, and behaviors necessary for students to succeed academically.

## **Project Method**

The Committee consisted of nine teacher-librarians from throughout the state of Oregon, including elementary, middle school, high school and district personnel. Kathryn Harmon was selected as chairperson; Kate Weber, treasurer; Susan Stone, secretary and Peggy Christensen, political outreach.

The project was to engage ODE and invite the state library consultant. Unfortunately, the contact person for ODE retired, and was not replaced. A meeting with a representative from ODE, the state librarian and representatives of the project committee is being scheduled. This has unavoidably delayed ODE's input to the project. Jen Mauer, School Library Consultant, was invited to be a member of the committee. She did not join as a member, however she served in an advisory capacity, attended the October committee meeting, and offered constructive and editorial support on the materials.

The project had a timeline set to accomplish its quantifiable objectives that was developed by the committee, along with additional items the committee added, to stay

on track with completion of the project. The committee had to minimally adjust the timeline to accommodate each member's full-time work schedule.

The committee met via web-ex in the spring of 2011, face-to-face meetings in August, October, November and April, with many email and phone conversations during the course of the project.

The project committee researched core curriculum standards from many sources. The committee divided into four groups, one for each standard: reading engagement, social responsibility, information literacy, and technology integration to write rough drafts of standards for review, working to develop a format for the standards. The committee continued to work to revise and fine-tune the language. The standards were presented to the OASL board winter meeting, requesting and receiving feedback. The committee continued to revise the document until Spring 2012.

The project committee drafted a literacy skills framework that not only includes the Indicators for each standard, but aligns them with the Common Core Standards adopted by Oregon in 2010, AASL and ISTE standards. A final proofing of the indicators will be completed in August.

Both the standards and the framework will be posted on OASL's website as soon as the merger of OASL with OLA is complete, resolving web site storage issues. The Standards are currently posted on the State Library's web page for school libraries <http://cms.oregon.egov.com/osl/LD/Pages/school/index.aspx>.

A request was submitted to COSA to present the standards and framework at the June 2012 COSA conference in order to reach the contingent of educators who make district and building level decisions about libraries, but it was denied. In order to ensure the information was made available to Oregon's school administrators' association, the committee secured a booth at the conference. The booth experience was considered to be a better alternative, reaching and interacting with more of the conference attendees.

The committee will have an opportunity at the Fall OASL Conference in October 2012 to present the standards and framework to the membership and conference attendees. Additionally, members of the committee wrote an article for the Spring Interchange magazine to introduce the OASL membership to the committee's work and progress, and have submitted an article for the August issue regarding the COSA conference experience.

## **Project Results**

Final revisions to the standards are complete. The final proofreading of the framework will be completed in August.

A very attractive and professional brochure was created to disseminate information both about why school library standards are important and what the standards are. 3000 copies of the brochure were printed. These brochures were distributed at the COSA conference in June along with 1000 QR code stickers, which link directly to the current website for the standards. Envelopes and stamps have been purchased to mail copies of the brochures to all Oregon school administrators and OASL members. These will be mailed during the summer. Brochures will also be available to give to OASL conference attendees in October.

The objective has been met. The standards are complete and the framework will soon be finalized. Quoting the committee's Oregon School Library Standards' brochure, "These library standards lead to students developing life-long learning skills and teachers and librarians clearly articulating skills for modern learning environments. District personnel and school administrators can use these standards to address the charge of HB2586: to build and implement strong school library programs."

The project committee will ask the executive OASL board to install a Standards Committee, so that work can continue. The website will continue to develop. Work with ODE will hopefully lead to a "buy-in" of the standards and how they coincide with the Common Core State Standards.

The framework could be used to write a detailed Library benchmarks, or scope and sequence.

### **Project Impact**

This project could help prove the importance of the role of school teacher-librarians in information literacy. The standards and framework can help districts in the state make plans for library improvement. They can also help increase student achievement. Studies have proven that quality school librarians and school library programs do improve student achievement.

With this important work being done for use by each district in the state, improvement in library programs can be more easily be put in place. With future increased school funding, the framework will be in place for quality library programs in every school.

### **Suggestions for Improvement**

I am very impressed with the amount and quality of the work produced by this project committee. I understand how difficult it can be to accomplish a project like this, while committee members are working full-time. I think the committee rightly determined that face-to-face meetings work the best. Another meeting could have helped to keep the project on pace.

I agree with the committee's decision to have the Standards Committee become a part of OASL, and to continue to make school administrators aware of the project. I am confident they will continue to work with ODE to integrate library curriculum as an important part of the Core Curriculum. The project committee seemed to be dedicated to continue their work as a OASL Committee well beyond the grant. These steps can only help to bring school libraries back to the level they once were and to improve them even further.