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To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent, school and community volunteer, small business owner, early literacy and language consultant, and children's author. I am writing in support of the proposed School Library Standards.

College and career readiness for 21st-Century learners is dependent on the ability to understand, evaluate, use, produce, and communicate ideas using ever-changing technologies. The four learning strands in the proposed school library standards (Information Literacy, Reading Engagement, Social Responsibility and Technology Integration) are critical to Oregon's K-12 students developing the skills necessary for college and career readiness and for the Governor's 40/20/20 goal to become a reality.

The proposed library standards cross all disciplines and all grade levels, and they complement many of the standards embedded in the Common Core. Why then are library standards even needed? They are needed as a means to ensure that students across Oregon receive equitable access to strong school libraries.

More than 60 studies have shown that strong school library programs led by certified teacher librarians are linked with higher student achievement levels. Although the Strong School Libraries Act (Oregon House Bill 2586) requires school districts to account for strong school library programs in their Continuous Improvement Plans (CIPs), there continues to be great disparity in school library programs across the state. In fact, some school districts, including the Beaverton School District, once thought of as a model for strong school libraries, no longer prioritize school library services in their operating budgets. As a result, school library services have weakened, not strengthened in the recent past.

The proposed school library standards provide consistent learning targets for students and teachers, and they provide school districts with a clear message that library-related skills are integral to the college and career readiness and eventual success of our 21st-Century learners.

I request that the Oregon Department of Education adopt the proposed School Library Standards.

Sincerely,



Dawn Prochovnic, MA
Washington County Voter
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