

SEN. ARNIE ROBLAN
STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 5



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November 30th, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

As the State Senator for District 5, I am writing to offer my support of the proposed Oregon School Library Standards (OSLS) - designed to help students become career ready and/or pursue their post-secondary education goals. As suggested, I perused the website and discovered that OSLS aligns with the values of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English-Language Arts (ELA).

For too long now, Oregon Students have witnessed the disruption of their education achievements from lack of school funding. In particular, Oregon's rural school districts have yet to see repair of the damage caused by years of un-sustained funding. I believe the OSLS can help bring our school libraries within the standards for success.

In 2009, Legislators supported House Bill 2586 to permit the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to award grants for school library programs. Forty-six of 1,263 school libraries met the fully-funded Quality Education Model criteria for school libraries, according to 2006-2007 data from the Department. The legislation was also used to encourage further development of Oregon's school library programs. In 2010, the Committee of Librarians utilized the data to illustrate the need for a myriad of functions to help strengthen Oregon's Libraries and the school districts they serve.

The OSLS, with a wide range of applications, pair nicely with existing research that has consistently shown that science, social studies, history with technological integration are necessary components for a successful post-secondary career. For example, the research indicates that the combined effort between the disciplines' specific instructor and the teacher librarian increases the likelihood of the student's success while honing in on their creative entrepreneurial spirit.

Oregon students are now being evaluated using Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. The OSLS are designed to achieve a greater margin of success within the CCSS because the committee ensured that the students, regardless of whether they reside in rural or urban Oregon, will have the same opportunities in their post-secondary goals.

The core component of the OSLS covers: Information Literacy, Reading Engagement, Social Responsibility and Technology Integration. These four stands combined, will benefit the students' overall critical thinking skills; new appreciation for the written word; create a collaborative atmosphere for learning; and enhance their digital environment to foster competence, confidence and creativity. The OSLS committee team worked closely with the CCSS and ODE for cohesion and uniformity.

The OSLS provides a model that could be used as a framework for equitable library programs across the state. It would also meet Governor John Kitzhaber's landmark 40/20/20 goal to get our students to the level of performance needed for post-secondary success. This is why I am endorsing the OSLS as an important step in helping Oregon students meets the requirements in their career and educations goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Arnie Roblan'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Senator Arnie Roblan
Co-Speaker of the House 2011-12