



Joint Committee on Student Success:
Support a Licensed Librarian in EVERY School!
SUPPLEMENTAL RESEARCH & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) about Schools Libraries

- [OAR 581-22-2340](#), Division 22, Media Programs
“The school district shall provide a coordinated media program. The district shall:
(a) Adopt Program goals for:
(A) Media instruction for all grade levels...
...(b) Identifies instructional activities designed to achieve media skills goals...”

- [OAR 581-022-2250](#), Division 22, District Improvement Plan
“(1) For the purposes of OAR 581-022-2250 the following definitions apply:
...(l) “Strong school library program” means a planned effort to ensure the instruction of students, school staff, and the broader learning community in library skills, information literacy, and educational technology; such a program promotes a rich array of literacy experiences supporting life-long reading; facilitates collaboration in lesson planning and instruction; ensures equitable access to library resources and licensed school librarians; and develops and manages current, plentiful, and diverse library collections of print and electronic resources that support classroom curricula and student interests.
...(7) The local district continuous improvement plan shall include:
...(j) A strong school library program...”

Division 22 Compliance

- Every February, school districts must submit an [assurance that they are in compliance with Division 22 of the Oregon Administrative Rules](#), and communicate that with the public.
- There is no clear language from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) about what qualifies as being in compliance for the Media Programs OAR.
- It is common for districts to indicate compliance with the Media Programs OAR when there is no licensed librarian on staff or when there is no coordinated media program; compliance is not confirmed by ODE unless a complaint is filed.

School Library Impact Studies

- *Phi Delta Kappan* article from March 2018, “[Why School Libraries Matter: What Years of Research Tell Us](#)”
- [SCHOOL LIBRARY IMPACT STUDIES: A Review of Findings and Guide to Sources](#), Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, 2013

- [How Pennsylvania School Libraries Pay Off: Investments in Student Achievement and Academic Standards](#), 2012 ([executive summary](#))

American Association of School Libraries Position Statements

- [Instructional Role of the School Librarian](#)
“... school librarians are instructors as well as collaborators with fellow educators in the pursuit of student learning in school libraries, classrooms, learning commons, makerspaces, labs, and virtual learning spaces...”
- [Appropriate Staffing for School Libraries](#)
“...The success of a school library program, no matter how well designed, ultimately depends on the quality and number of personnel responsible for managing the instructional program and the library’s physical and virtual resources. A certified school librarian, supported by technical and clerical staff, is crucial to an effective school library program. Every student, teacher, and administrator in every school building at every grade level should have access to a fully staffed library throughout the school day...”
- [Definition of An Effective School Library Program](#)
“...an effective school library program has a certified school librarian at the helm, provides personalized learning environments, and offers equitable access to resources to ensure a well-rounded education for every student...”

JCOSS 2018 High Quality Classroom Work Group Policy Recommendations

- [Provide funding](#) to support specialists in every elementary school:
...e. Teacher Librarian;
...The Quality Education Commission’s 2018 report recommends that 4.5 FTE for specialists be in place elementary schools containing 340 students...”
- Note: It is important to fund librarians at all grade levels. The [Quality Education Commission](#)’s 2018 Quality Education Policy Model recommends a full-time librarian and a full-time assistant for every prototype middle school and high school.

Titles for School Librarians

- School librarians are licensed, or certified, teachers with a school library media endorsement.
- Other position titles that mean the same thing include teacher librarian, media specialist, and school library media specialist.