



Oregon Association of School Libraries

May 22, 2014

Dear Superintendent:

School library programs must now be accounted for in a district's Continuous Improvement Plan. The library community has worked with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to develop and adopt school library indicators. We also offer resources that can be helpful for districts building a strong school library program.

For some background, when HB2586 became law in January 2010, it amended Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 327.297 and 329.095. As a result, districts must account for "strong school library programs" in the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) submitted to the Oregon Department of Education. As of December 2013, the State Board of Education approved updates to the related OAR, 581-022-0606, and the school library addition is now reflected in it. Look for sections (1)(l) and (7)(j).

There are the two school library indicators to respond to in the CIP:

- DTL5.5
The district provides all students and staff in each school with equitable access to a comprehensive library program which provides instruction in information literacy and research proficiencies, promotes integration of digital learning resources, advances reading engagement, and creates collaborative learning opportunities with teachers.
- DTL5.6
The district ensures that all students and staff in each school have equitable access to a professionally-developed and well-managed school library collection of current and diverse print and electronic resources that supports teaching and learning, college and career readiness, and reading engagement.

ODE's *Resources and Research for Oregon's District Improvement Indicators* offers supporting information for each indicator in the CIP, and the school library indicators are addressed on pages 95 - 98. The following recommendation is on page 98:

As districts are coming out of the recession and seeing an increase in funding from multiple sources, district policies and practices on staffing of school libraries should be reviewed. Many districts have moved away from certified staff in libraries and have hired paraprofessionals to staff libraries full or part-time. The evidence is clear that district policy and hiring practice should favor placing a full-time, certified school librarian in each school library.

As you respond to the school library indicators and consider your district's school library program, members of the Oregon Library Association (OLA) and the Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL) are ready to answer questions and point you to resources. OASL has developed a useful webpage on Strong School Library Programs (<http://bit.ly/1hbxpOm>). Primary considerations that can make the greatest impact for students include staffing at appropriate levels of expertise and adequate resources funding. Please contact your district's licensed school librarians for more assistance in addressing the school library portion of your district CIP. Jennifer Maurer (jennifer.maurer@state.or.us), School Library Consultant at the State Library, and your local college and public libraries are also knowledgeable and can serve as helpful contacts. The library community cares about your students and assisting you with the critical task of making them information literate.

Respectfully,



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OASL's Strong School Library Programs webpage:

