

## Why should you support School Libraries in Oregon?

Fewer than 1/3 of school-age Oregonians benefit from a strong school library program with a licensed librarian and an adequate budget for books and materials.

Investing in school libraries is a proven and efficient way to increase student achievement and improve education for all Oregon students.

Research in 15 states, including Oregon, shows that the school library program contributes to academic achievement. That contribution cannot be explained away by other powerful influences on student performance including poverty and minority demographics.

A licensed school librarian is a teacher, first. This essential staff person enriches every program in a school by creating lessons that integrate information literacy into classroom instruction and obtaining needed resources to support curriculum. Above all the school teacher-librarian inspires children to cherish reading and learning.

School librarians provide professional development to their colleagues introducing and providing on-going support to keep current on innovative technology use and information skills. They are teachers teaching teachers.

School librarians develop, manage, and maintain collections of print and digital materials geared to a variety of reading abilities and subjects aligned with Oregon standards. They extend the reach of their collection by collaborating with public libraries.

A strong school library program is a key element in assuring that all Oregon graduates have the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills needed to compete in the global marketplace. Support our students by investing in school library programs.