

Dear HB 3263 Hearing Committee,

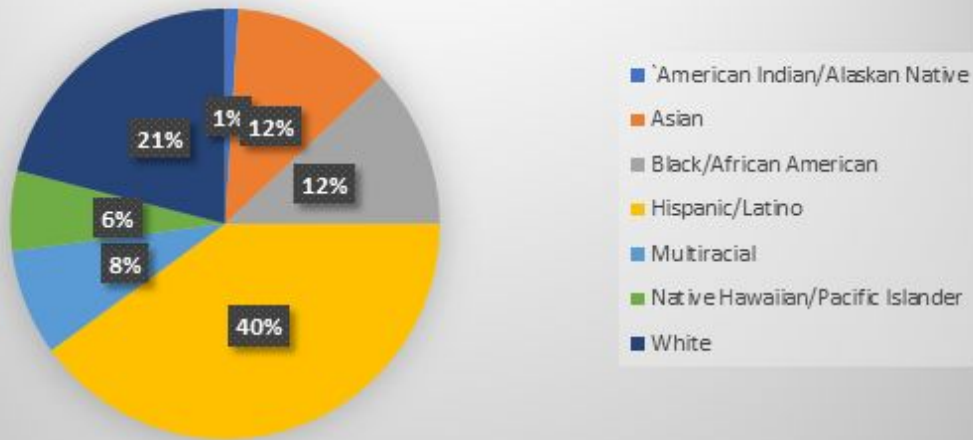
My name is Antonio Servin-Gonzalez and I am an Elementary Library Media Assistant in the Reynolds School District. My job is to supervise students in the Library, check out books to students, help students find books, teach students how to use the Library, provide technical assistance and much more.

Some of the biggest challenges I face are lack of time for planning and shelving. I see every class (K-5 and 3 SPED Life Skills) twice a week. One day we check out books and the second I have to come up with an activity to do. Most of the time they end up being coloring, free writing time, community building activities or quiet free time due to very limited planning time. A teacher librarian would have the knowledge and training to develop lessons around Library logistics, research, presentations, literacy and so much more.

Lack of teacher librarians and low book budgets have also created an equity issue when it comes to cultural responsiveness. My school was very fortunate to get a new building this year. As I was unpacking the Library, I noticed a lack of Spanish books. The entire Spanish collection fit on one shelf but that collection has many books that are outdated. In a school with 37% Spanish speaking students, I would have expected a bit more. Another issue was that biographies lacked representation. The figures on page two illustrate the Race/Ethnicity data from the State of Oregon School Report Card and our school's Biography collection by Race/Ethnicity. As you can see, our students are not well represented in this part of the Library collection. Though I am not 100% sure, I have a strong feeling that this is due to the fact that there have been 3 people in my position in the last year (due to the high stress and low pay of the job, turn-over rate is high), not enough funding for books and not enough training for classified Library staff on cultural responsiveness or time to take a look at the collection and see what is needed or missing.

Folks who are in my position are expected to start day one without any training or extra support. I had to learn what to do when a student became angry and began throwing books, chairs, crayons on my own. I had to learn how to manage a class that doesn't get along. I had to learn how to supervise two classes (52 students total) at the same time because teacher preps are so short that teachers sometimes are late picking their students up. I'm still trying to learn how to catch up on shelving with the two 20 minute and one 15 minute prep blocks I have. If you're ever in this position, I hope you're a good swimmer because we start at the deep end. The time to reinvest in school libraries is now. We need teams of full time Teacher Librarians and full time Library Assistants in every school in Oregon so our students can thrive.

**State of Oregon
Wilkes Elementary School Report Card
Race/ Ethnicity**



**Wilkes Elementary School
Library Biography Collection by Race/ Ethnicity**

