



April 23, 2019

To: Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Alonso Leon and Helt, and Members of the House Committee on Education:

The Information Literacy Advisory Group of Oregon ([ILAGO](#)) fully supports the efforts of the Oregon Association of School Librarians (OASL) to advocate for increasing K-12 students' access to robust school library programs, including curriculum specifically for information literacy, developed and provided by certified teaching librarians.

To that end, we ask you to fully consider the advantages of [HB 3263](#), Standards for School Library Programs, and to work towards strengthening school library media standards, across all grades.

[Grade level learning goals](#) for the current Oregon Library Standards have been created by OASL, with the addition of Grades 13 and 14, to provide a detailed view of how students move through incremental steps towards mastery of information literacy, technology, social responsibility, and reading. Understanding and skill in these areas must be built through developmental stages, over time, with practice.

Students without the proper support develop learning gaps which impede their progress, especially in this time of fake news. [ILAGO](#) asks you to address the confusion about the idea that anyone who works in a school library is a "librarian." *They are not.* [School librarians](#) are certified teachers who provide instruction to students, and support in using technology. Importantly, beyond technology, librarians collaborate with teachers to create learning experiences. They can provide professional development for teachers about the information ecosystem, and how information is created, including detecting fake news. And if a school does not have a certified, teaching librarian, it will not have the curriculum available to support both students and teachers of *all subjects*, for students to *fully* learn research skills.

Sincerely,

Pam Kessinger, Chair; Board members, *Information Literacy Advisory Group of Oregon*