



Oregon Students Need Information Literacy and Library Media Program Standards Support SB 552

PROBLEM:

Recent government insurrections, along with studies like the Stanford History Education Group Civic Online Reasoning Study (2018/19) show that students' ability to evaluate digital information sources is ineffectual. Oregon lawmakers and the State Board of Education have taken proactive steps in recent years to require strong school library media programs. These actions by the State are critical to ensuring that today's students have the knowledge and skills to evaluate information for success in their personal, professional, and civic lives. Despite these efforts, **public school library media programs continue to lack uniform program and evaluation standards, resulting in vastly different experiences for students in different school districts.** This inequity particularly impacts traditionally underserved students and those in rural areas.

Inadequate library media programs deprive Oregon students of instruction that provides foundational literacy, technology, and information evaluation skills, threatening the well-being of individuals and our democratic society.

SOLUTION – SB 552:

- 1) Directs the Department of Education to convene an advisory group to evaluate and report to the legislature:
 - If current library media program standards address student learning needs;
 - How to best measure district compliance to current library media program standards.
- 2) Requires the State Board of Education to consult with the State Library when establishing library media program standards.
- 3) Adds "information literacy" to directives concerning opportunities for students to learn civics and financial literacy.

SB 552 will produce positive outcomes for Oregon students and citizens:

- Determining the current state of information literacy education and library media programs allows us to **identify strengths and weaknesses** across the state, ultimately leading to **greater equity of opportunity for all students** to develop essential knowledge and skills.
- Involving key stakeholders, including **experts in information literacy**, will result in more **rigorous and relevant library media programs.**
- Recognizing information literacy to be as important as civic and financial literacy will increase both **personal and public health and well-being and the longevity of American democracy.**

"The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all." John F. Kennedy

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FEBRUARY 2021