



February 26, 2015

Senate Committee on Education
Oregon State Legislature

RE: Comment on Senate Bill 84

Dear Senator Roblan and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Library Association recognizes the need for statewide standards for accelerated college credit programs for high school students. However, the current legislation contains no mention of standards for access to appropriate information resources and expertise that are critical for student success. We suggest that this addition would be complimentary to existing law that requires school districts to plan for strong school library programs.

High school students taking college credit classes are often required to use more sophisticated information resources than typically used. To succeed, these students require access to a broad suite of information as well as the expertise to find, evaluate and synthesize that information. School libraries with professional staffing provide this key to educational success.

OLA strongly encourages the committee to include a standard that addresses access to information and professional expertise within the context of accelerated learning. Our school libraries must be strengthened to assure that all Oregon graduates have the 21st Century Skills to succeed.

Sincerely,

Candice Watkins, President, OLA
(Clatsop Community College)

Janet Webster, Chair, OLA Library Development and Legislation Committee
(Oregon State University)