

April 19, 2019

Testimony for HB 3263

Speaking as a 33 year career educator, 13 year school board member and presently a retired weekly volunteer as the portable “i-Brary” lady at our local middle school, I can absolutely attest to the importance of reading skills and who instructs them. That no one questions their importance speaks volumes. That is why it is easy to defend and promote the availability of library services from librarians and their assistants.

Not only do reading skills assure better success in school, but in everyday life and most all employment. When I observe the looks of excitement and pleasure on the faces of the students who check out any kind of book from the i-Brary it just makes me smile. When I first started volunteering, I questioned the value of the graphic novels for the newer readers. I was assured, and it is true, that they can be the entry into the world of serious reading for many students . When students are asking for the next volume in a high interest series, you know they are engaged. My conversations with students albeit weekly are enlightening as I see how they relate to all types of books.

Educators such as librarians and their assistants can spread the word and teach so much across all curriculum. I have been surprised myself at being directed toward certain young adult books by the librarian in our middle school library, and in turn I have been able to do the same for students. Funding for excellent, available library services is imperative for quality education for our children.

Claudette Naylor
17517 NE Wasco St.
Portland, OR 97230