



# SALEM CITY CLUB

---

Celebrating 41 years of Exceptional Civic Discourse

THE LEGISLATURE IS MOVING FASTER THAN WE CAN WRITE!  
IN ADDITION TO WHAT YOU'VE RECEIVED ON THIS ISSUE, PLEASE KNOW THAT:

The question really is:

To *Co-locate* the Oregon School for the Blind  
on the same campus with the School for the Deaf

*OR*

To *Close* the Oregon School for the Blind

Friday, March 27, 2009 | 11:45 – 1 p.m.  
Mission Mill Museum, 1313 Mill St. SE, Salem, OR

Reservations Required for Lunch

Call 503.589.2975 or e-mail [salemcityclub@aol.com](mailto:salemcityclub@aol.com) by noon Tuesday, March 24

no fee to attend the program at noon | lunch \$12 per member and \$14 for non-member

*The community is welcomed and encouraged to join us!*

While the Oregon Department of Education is making plans for co-locating the School for the Blind and the School for the Deaf onto the same campus, **the Oregon Legislature is considering closure of the Oregon School for the Blind.**

The number of students served by OSB has declined steadily in the past two decades. Today, enrollment has dwindled to 31. Of these students, only nine students are blind, while 12 have autism. The school lost its accreditation in the early 1990s and “moved away” from offering an academic, K-12 curriculum shortly after that time.

Because the State Superintendent of Schools has the authority to co-locate the schools without the consent of the Legislature, lawmakers must consider whether the special school model is the best way to offer services to Oregon students with complex needs including visual impairment. Co-location of the school will require tens of millions of dollars in new capital construction, which would commit the state to this segregated model of education for generations to come.

The House Education Committee is weighing the possibility of closing OSB, and preserving all of the capital and operating resources to serve the students currently enrolled at the school and kids with similar disabilities for years to come. If the Legislature determines that closure is the best route for the school, it would redeploy the existing resources for better use to serve students with visual impairment all across the state. These resources would not be dedicated back to the general fund.

The Committee is **not** considering closure of the Oregon School for the Deaf.

**Kevin Mannix** is opposed to the closing of the Oregon School for the Blind and the co-location of OSB and OSD.

**Rep. Sara Gelser** supports closure of OSB, and continuing operation of OSD.