

March 18, 2021

Oregon House Education Committee  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2412, -1 Amendments

Chair Alonso Leon and Members of the House Education Committee,

I'm writing today to urge your support and adoption of the -1 amendments to HB 2412. This amendment includes funding for five different college access programs that were funded in the Governors Recommend Budget. These five programs provide valuable access and supports for low-income and historically underserved students and help them to achieve their post-secondary goals.

One such program is AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination.

[Nwasco County School District launched AVID in 2016 at The Dalles High School.

Submitted by Nick Nelson, Retired, 2018, Principal of The Dalles High School.  
This summation was written in 2018.

Launch

Three years ago my Superintendent encouraged me, as high school principal, to apply for a grant tied to a "philosophy" centered on Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading. This philosophical approach also had at its core the mantra of "closing the achievement gap. At that time, our school was just beginning to make significant strides out of a deep budget, academic, and staff morale recession. This philosophy seemed to fortify a solid pathway to bolster our positive momentum.

The grant was finished and was successful. We were setup to attend a three consecutive summer training sequence dealing with different aspects of this "philosophy". As we began the three-month journey to prepare for the initial Summer Institute training, little did we know our team of six teaching staff and one additional administrator would ride the crest of a shift to a powerful transformative culture for our high school. We began to sense something dynamic as well as intriguing with this venture.

The initial summer training was a significant epiphany. We began to grasp more concretely the significance of what we were involved in and the potential impact the "philosophy", now better understood by us as AVID [Advancement Via Individual Determination], and the impact AVID could have on our instructional practice with targeted students as well as school-wide.

## Turn Around

We are finishing our second year of implementing AVID. We launched a second AVID elective and have continued to expand WICOR strategies through our weekly professional development sessions.

For the 2018-19 school year, we will be “all in” by adding AVID electives at grades 9 and 10. In addition, we are expanding AVID to our middle school grade 8 for the 2018-19 school year. We will be sending 25 staff to Summer Institute in July.

Key academic, behavior, and attendance indicators continue to substantiate our efforts on this pathway.]

## The present

AVID has continued to grow since my retirement. Our AVID program has expanded to include grades 6 and 7 at our middle school.

By implementing AVID, both high school and middle school cultures were reborn. Staff and students have continued to set higher expectations and goals for improved academic performance in the classroom and have continued to persist in building a solid foundation for college and career readiness.

In a word AVID is TRANSFORMATIVE.