

I would like to bring to the attention the fact that any child in Oregon has access to an Individual Education Program or Plan. Otherwise known as an IEP. This is where school administrators, teachers and parents come together to create an individual plan for the student to meet their needs.

I believe the Talented and Gifted Program could slide into an IEP plan that gives the student access to materials at their skill level. I think the request in the bill is too onerous on school administrators and will not result in material improvements in the global educational outcomes of Oregon's school children.

This bill creates a separate and unequal track for success that allows "privileged families" to demand additional support so their kids can "thrive". We have entire populations of brown and black children who are not thriving and would not benefit from this program.

I don't think it is fair or beneficial for TAG families to propose a completely new and different track for obtaining the same thing for all kids: appropriate learning at the appropriate level. I believe the existing IEP program should be expanded to all easier access to additional TAG support through the same regulatory program as all the other kids in our schools.

When I was growing up, I was not allowed access to the Talented and Gifted program. I saw other kids, children of the school district staff, get access to these programs and they clearly did not have any intellectual gift greater than what I had. I later went on to complete a masters from an Ivy League and 'invented' google maps in my masters thesis.

I believe I was excluded from these programs due to my race and gender.

OPPOSED