



Grants Pass School District No. 7

725 NE Dean Drive, Grants Pass, OR 97526 · Phone: (541) 474-5709
www.grantspass.k12.or.us · Fax: (541) 474-5705

OFFICE of CURRICULUM

March 20, 2023

Good afternoon, Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Ruiz and Vice-Chair McIntire and members of the committee. For the record my name is Trisha Evens, and I am the Director of Secondary Education for Grants Pass School District. Thank you for allowing me to share with my experience and support of HB3120-2.

I am here to provide testimony supporting HB3120-2, The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall establish a grant program for the purpose of supporting organizations that expand the scope and community reach of college access and success programs for the purpose of increasing college enrollment and post-secondary completion rates for Oregon's historically underrepresented. This bill also aligns with the recommendations of the Joint Task Force On Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education (JTUSHE).

In the last biennium budget, HB 2412-2 invested \$5 Million to five College Access and Success organizations in the state. The intended purpose of those funds was to increase support services for Oregon's historically underrepresented students and expand the number of students served across the state.

- In Grants Pass School District, we are in our 7th year of implementation of AVID. It has shifted our system and culture around ALL students having the opportunity to explore college opportunities. We have a large population of students experiencing poverty and homelessness in our region. AVID has provided so many students with the hope and skill set necessary to navigate post-high school plans including college (4 year and 2-year colleges, trade schools, apprenticeships, etc.).
- The grant dollars have allowed us to train more staff which has supported our ability to refine our system in a more expedited way.
- It is critical to continue supporting initiatives like HB3120-2 as district's have limited resources and funding. The needs of our students have especially increased post-pandemic. Mental health and social emotional skill sets have been greatly diminished. AVID's focus on building a culture where students belong and have opportunities to develop skills needed to navigate life after high school.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trisha Evens".

Trisha Evens
Director of Secondary Education