

I support SB 933 which will require reporting on the progress of TAG students. I was dismayed and dumbfounded by the State Board of Education statement that: *“Lack of access to programs for academically gifted and high-achieving students does not constitute facing academic disparities,”* Thus high-achieving students as such are not included in SIA reports.

This statement essentially renders gifted and high-achieving students invisible in the reports that are provided to the legislature and the public. These students exist. The failure to adequately identify and provide appropriate instruction is detrimental to the individual students and to the social and economic health of Oregon. The public needs to be informed of whether or not **all** students, including the talented and gifted, are meeting growth targets. The current reports hide this information.

I am the parent of three adult children who were identified as TAG and participated in programs in their schools in CA. Now as a grandparent of students in OR public schools, I continue to advocate because TAG students all over the state are not receiving an appropriate education. This is especially true for economically disadvantaged, ethnic minorities, ELL students, and those living in rural communities. If this is not a disparity in opportunity – what is?

Oregon compares unfavorably with a number of states on the outcomes of our educational system. Oregon students score lower than others on the NAEP which is considered the nations report card. A recent report on how easy it is to compare different schools’ or district’s performance within the state ranked Oregon near the bottom.

- *“Oregon was one of just 13 states that the nonpartisan Center for Reinventing Public Education gave an F for making it wildly difficult for parents to find and compare data about long-term school performance.” The Oregonian Updated: Sep. 16, 2024, 3:58 p.m. | Published: Sep. 05, 2024, 12:28 p.m.*

A follow up article describing the newly released state dashboard concludes that it is only slightly better.

- *“But the state’s update does not include the crucial ability to compare the average student’s growth across multiple years at a single glance to pinpoint improvements, plateaus or declines. Instead, each year’s data is displayed on a separate page.” The lead author of the original study is quoted as saying: “It’s still not really very transparent about how a school is doing. It’s still very difficult to compare schools with each other and to compare schools over time to pre-COVID.” January 26, 2025 State agency debuts slightly better way to track school performance Julia Silverman The Oregonian/OregonLive*

I urge you to support SB 933 which would require that learning gains and not just scores be reported. This information is crucial for **all** students, including TAG. The public needs to know which schools are more successful in providing an appropriate education and how those results can be increased throughout the state.