

Submitter: Darshan Acharya
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB933

Hello-

I am writing to convey our family's support for SB 933, and SB 934.

We have a gifted child, currently in 3rd grade in PPS, who was identified as gifted via standardized IQ testing, and suggestions from KG and 1st grade teachers. Our experience in trying to obtain TAG services was quite frustrating, and essentially it took several months of reading between the lines to understand that effectively, there was none at our school that we could perceive, i.e., TAG existed in name only. No accelerated learning, no pull out sessions, and no opportunity for our child to meet his appropriate rate and level of learning in the classroom. Concepts that our child has mastered in KG were taught in 3rd grade, and the result...a bored child who was scoring 50% on things he had known for several years, out of boredom. Through a PPS lottery, he was able to get into the ACCESS program, which does allow for the child to have appropriate rate/level of learning, and the result is our 3rd grader is now doing great with 5th grade math, advanced science, and literature appropriate to his level.

Fundamentally, any bolstering of TAG in the state would be appreciated, and we feel both of the relevant bills in this session would help. While we realize the breadth of need in our schools, as well as the dearth of funding for TAG education here and nationwide, we urge the legislators to not waste what is a truly invaluable resource for Oregon: talented, motivated children who will grow up to potentially be the future drivers of our state's economy, our potential leaders and problem solvers. It's penny-wise and pound foolish to ignore them. They are children who deserve the same chance to reach their full potential, and while it's easy to demonize or lump them under the umbrella of beneficiaries of inequality, the truth is they're just kids like all the rest, and deserve to have their needs met as we strive to reach all other students.