

# House Bill 2997



## Background

- Only 56% of Oregonians are enrolling in post-secondary education including community colleges, trade schools and universities
- Enrollment disparities are even more drastic for rural students and those living on low-incomes
- Post-secondary access and success organizations like College Possible, AVID and Trio work to close opportunity gaps and increase enrollment and graduation across the state:
  - College Possible serves 2,000 students in 8 counties
  - AVID serves 16,536 secondary students in 27 counties
  - Trio serves 12,000 students in 15 counties

## Current Bill

In the 2025 Regular Session, we are introducing HB 2997 to establish a permanent grant fund within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for the purpose of supporting organizations that expand the scope and community reach of college access and success programs for underserved Oregon students.

## Impact

Past biennium funding allowed the original five organizations to deepen and expand their programming for underserved Oregon students. This permanent grant fund would open up this opportunity to more organizations and allow programs to significantly expand their reach across the state, meeting the growing demands of rising higher education costs, enrollment declines, and an uncertain economy. College access and success organizations are natural extensions of Oregon's investments in education and workforce development at a time when students from underserved backgrounds are at significant risk of being left behind as the opportunity gap widens.



College Possible makes college admission and success possible for urban and rural students from low-income backgrounds through an intensive curriculum of coaching and support. Our goal is to close the post-secondary education opportunity gap so underserved students advance into economic success. College Possible is currently the only organization in Oregon serving students through both access during high school and success in college, as well as the critical transitions of high school to postsecondary education and to career pathways. College Possible Oregon students are achieving their post-secondary education goals including earning college degrees.



Oregon TRIO Association connects federal TRIO programs to communities in need and supports all TRIO programs statewide. OTA achieves its mission by securing federal TRIO grants for Oregon's educational institutions and non-profit organizations. There are fifty-five grants operating throughout the state. Our organization provides program management support, educational resources, and select opportunities for students to help them attain their educational goals.



At AVID Center, we believe every student can live a life of possibility. Built on AVID's College and Career Readiness Framework of what educators do (insist on rigor, break down barriers, align the work, advocate for students) and what students need (rigorous academic preparedness, opportunity knowledge, student agency), we partner with K-12 educators to create thriving learning cultures that positively impact every student's learning and readiness to succeed. Our schoolwide approach to teaching and learning activates the agency of teachers and students, surrounds them with a supportive community, and illuminates future opportunities. When implemented with fidelity, AVID creates an environment where high achievement is expected of all students – and all are equipped with the skills they need to successfully pursue postsecondary endeavors – whether career, training, the military, or college.