

From: Margaret DeLacy <margaretdelacy@comcast.net>

Date: February 23, 2015 at 12:10:57 PM PST

To: "Gretchen Engbring, Senate Education Committee" <gretchen.engbring@state.or.us>

Cc: <board@oatag.org>

Subject: testimony for SB 84

Dear Members of the Senate Education Committee:

The Oregon Association for Talented and Gifted supports Senate Bill 84 and hopes that you will vote in favor of its adoption. Accelerated learning opportunities such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Accelerated College Credit programs enhance student learning while saving money for both the Oregon taxpayers and Oregon families. We thank the members of the Senate Interim Committee on Education and Workforce Development for their hard work on this bill.

We believe that this bill will assist districts to meet the requirements of OAR 581-022-1670 which states that:

(3) Each school district shall assist teachers in adapting instruction and curriculum to meet the needs and learning rates of all students in achieving proficiency in the academic content standards. Districts must:

(a) Provide multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery of academic content standards through sufficient and appropriate assessment evidence.

(b) Continue to provide opportunities for students who have met standards to advance their learning.

(c) Provide students who have not met or have exceeded the academic content standards with access to additional services and other public school or alternative educational options.

Section 18 of this bill provides funding for "underserved" students. We would like to remind the Committee that TAG students are among the most underserved students in Oregon, as evidenced by the *Quiet Crisis* report submitted under SB 330 to the Senate Education Committee in 2012 and by the Special Population spending update that is attached to this message. In 2012-13, 88 school districts reported spending nothing at all on TAG services.

Additional evidence that Oregon TAG students are under-served comes from the report submitted by the Oregon Quality Education Commission this past August. The report found (p.49) that:

Males, economically disadvantaged students, Talented and Gifted students, and Pregnant and Parenting students have a lower probability of graduating than other students who are not part of those groups but who are at the same level of academic performance.

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/superintendent/priorities/final-2014-gem-report-volume-i-%28%29.pdf>

We therefore hope that the Rules to be adopted by the State Board of Education in consultation with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission will include TAG students.

We also hope that the Education Committee will work with us to find additional ways to expand access to accelerated instruction for high achieving and gifted students at all grade levels.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret DeLacy, Ph. D.
Chair
Government Relations Committee
Oregon Association for Talented and Gifted
Box 1703
Beaverton, OR
97075