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Dr. Karen Fischer Gray,
Superintendent

Parkrose School District is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Representative Mark Johnson
900 Court Street NE H-489
Salem, Oregon 97301

January 25, 2016

Dear Representative Johnson,

I am writing this letter to you in order to support AVID at the collegiate level. As you know, AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. It is a highly effective educational framework that has been working amazingly well for students in the USA and abroad for the last 30 plus years. In speaking with AVID's post secondary executive, Betty Krohn and AVID Executive Vice President Steve Silberman, I wanted to reach out to you to ask you to support legislation supporting the use of AVID at the post secondary level.

Parkrose School District is the only K-12 AVID school district in Oregon and boasts the only National Demonstration Site at Parkrose Middle School. Parkrose Middle School hosts 600 plus visitors a year, demonstrating how AVID school wide and AVID electives meet the challenging needs of one of the most diverse school districts in the state. With 75% free and reduced lunch, 20% English as a Second Language, and nearly 70% kids of color, Parkrose School District has been very successful using AVID as our education and equity framework. Our high school AVID students have a nearly 100% graduation rate with 100% acceptance rate into college and most receiving a scholarship.

In addition, Mt Hood Community College is the only AVID community college in Oregon. Lucky for us, MHCC is our feeder community college. When our students leave our schools, they still require support from the college in order to persist and graduate. Having MHCC be an AVID Community College is a great help to our students, the majority of which attend Mt Hood. Support at the post secondary level is different than K-12 and is appropriate to an older student's needs. MHCC students also act as AVID tutors at Parkrose High School and get paid for their work. It has created an amazing partnership of which we are very proud. The same is true for Portland State.

Please support AVID at the college level. In some states, AVID is not only fully developed at the community college level but at four-year universities as well. The WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization and Reading) strategies are effective K-20. They support education skills needed for the work place.

If you have questions or would like me or my staff to testify at hearings on this matter, please feel free to call upon me. Thank you so much for your interest and consideration of the AVID framework for post secondary education institutions. It really works!

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen Fischer Gray



Every child reads, thinks critically, and graduates ready for college and career.