



*AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.*

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April 15, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs Sen. Arnie Roblan, Representative Barbara Smith Warner and Members of the Joint Committee on Student Success:

As a resident of Oregon and a former Superintendent for Salem-Keizer School District, I care deeply about Oregon and the success of the educators and children and appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 3427.

The AVID Center is committed to giving our students and teachers the support they need to create high-quality schools with campus cultures promoting college and career readiness. We share a common vision in which all Oregon students have the skills and mindset to persist through postsecondary education and be prepared for jobs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The expansion of the partnership with Oregon educators and AVID began in early 2014 when school leaders shared their success implementing the AVID College Readiness System with the Nike School Innovation Fund (NSIF), the James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, and the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF). These leaders wanted to expand and deepen the AVID System in their schools so that all students could benefit.

Currently, in Oregon, there are 72 AVID school districts serving 65 elementary schools, 214 secondary schools, and 8 combo-schools, as well as, three AVID Higher Education community colleges (Chemeketa CC, Linn-Benton CC, and Mt. Hood CC).

Though relatively early in implementation at most Oregon schools, AVID is already yielding positive results in the following college-readiness indicators. Data taken from the AVID Center Senior Data collection for the 2017 – 2018 school year highlight the following:

- 99% of AVID Elective Seniors graduated high school on time
- 90% of AVID Elective Seniors completed four-year college entrance requirement
- 82% of AVID Elective Seniors applied to a four-year college/university
- 72% of AVID Elective Seniors were accepted to a four-year college/university
- 3.2 average high school GPA for AVID Seniors

These positive data trends support the partnership's belief that by investing in both the number of schools with AVID and more importantly, the number of schools implementing the preferred schoolwide model of AVID, we will improve the graduation rates of participating schools and districts. **If we can fund enough schools to reach a critical mass of students, we believe that it is possible to move the needle on the state's graduation rates and other indicators from dropout rates to student engagement metrics.**

I urge you to support HB 3427 to ensure that schools and districts across Oregon continue to adopt AVID and transform their schools through a focus on Equity, Teacher Effectiveness, Leadership, and Student Learning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Husk". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr. Sandy Husk  
CEO, AVID Center