



PARKROSE SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Michael Lopes Serrao
Superintendent

March 18th, 2021

Oregon House Education Committee
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2412, -2 Amendments

Chair Alonso Leon and Members of the House Education Committee,

I'm writing today to urge your support and adoption of the 2 amendments to HB 2412. This amendment includes funding for five different college access programs that were funded in the Governors Recommend Budget. These five programs provide valuable access and support for low-income and historically underserved students and help them to achieve their post-secondary goals.

I am the superintendent of the Parkrose School District in Northeast Portland. Our district is represented by more than 40 languages and more than 70% of our students are students who have been historically underserved in our community. In the past 10 years, our students, staff, and families have watched achievement and graduation rates increase and a large percentage of our students move onto post-secondary opportunities due to their success in Parkrose. This is been largely influenced by our partnership with AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination)

AVID has played a significant role in increasing our overall graduation rates, and particularly in closing the opportunity and achievement gaps for our historically underserved students. Parkrose students, staff, and families have benefited from improved school-wide instruction, leadership, culture, and systems that promote and encourage more rigorous academic skills and expectations for all of our students and staff.

AVID is the reason that a high percentage of our students are pursuing post-secondary education because of its ongoing support to create a college-going environment across our district from Kindergarten through 12th grade. This has changed the lives of many of our students and families.



*Every child reads, thinks critically, and graduates ready for college and career.
Parkrose School District is an equal opportunity educator and employer.*

We are deeply appreciative of our partnership with AVID and believe that our partnership has dramatically improved how we teach and support our students. The professional learning support is exceptional and AVID has created rigorous systems of evaluation to help push our district to be its best.

Parkrose Middle School is nationally recognized for its achievement with students, staff, and community and this is largely due to the support of our partnership with AVID. AVID has taught us that it's not about teaching our students to 'beat the odds', but creating a system that changes the odds for students who have traditionally been underserved by our school system.

I strongly encourage you to consider AVID's role in helping our most underrepresented students achieve their dreams and have many opportunities and choices beyond graduation.

Please feel free to reach out if you have further questions about this amazing program and its influence on our district.

Sincerely,
Michael Lopes Serrao
Superintendent
Parkrose School District



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