



Our Vision: All students graduate and are prepared for a successful life.

Christy Perry, Superintendent  
Sylvia McDaniel, Director  
Community Relations and Communications  
2450 Lancaster Drive NE • Salem, OR 97305  
503-399-3038 • [www.salemkeizer.org](http://www.salemkeizer.org)

April 26, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Media contact:

[Sylvia McDaniel](#) 971-209-9734

[Aaron Harada](#) 971-283-6158

## McNary High School designated as an AVID national demonstration school

*The designation solidifies McNary High School and Claggett Creek Middle School as the first 6-12 demonstration feeder system in the state of Oregon.*

**SALEM, Ore.** – On Thursday, April 21, McNary High School achieved a long-standing goal: Designation as an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) National Demonstration School. This recognition places McNary High School in the top-tier of certification for the AVID college readiness systems, meaning students graduate at the highest level, prepared for college and career success after high school.

“This goal was set in 2015 and it started with us saying that we have really high expectations. We wanted to be a world class high school,” said McNary Principal Erik Jespersen. “Today, after postponing two years due to the pandemic, we got to show what it truly means to be a world class high school. We heard directly from students about their love for their school, learning and the staff that support them each day, and that is why this designation matters. It matters for students to have this level of intention and support around them to succeed.”

Of the more than 8,000 schools across the nation utilizing AVID writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, reading strategies, only four schools in Oregon have received the demonstration school designation, three of which are Salem-Keizer Public Schools. AVID National Demonstration Schools are exemplary models of the AVID College Readiness System. Demonstration Schools undergo a rigorous validation process and are required to be revalidated every few years to ensure high levels of implementation, with quality and fidelity to AVID strategies schoolwide.

“I cannot say enough about the love for kids and the intentional culture that is built here at McNary High School,” said AVID Program Manager Terra Boyko. “When students are engaged, when they want to be here, and when they feel safe enough to take risks, that’s when the learning happens. That is exactly what’s happening right here in Keizer, Oregon.”

In 2021, students from McNary High School graduated at a rate of 96.23 percent, with 100 percent of AVID students across the district crossing the graduation stage.

“At McNary High School, Principal Jespersen has taken the district’s equity learning and put it into practice by bringing his whole team of educators at McNary High School together to ensure that each student gets the level of



Our Vision: All students graduate and are prepared for a successful life.

Christy Perry, Superintendent  
Sylvia McDaniel, Director  
Community Relations and Communications  
2450 Lancaster Drive NE • Salem, OR 97305  
503-399-3038 • [www.salemkeizer.org](http://www.salemkeizer.org)

support they need to be successful,” said SKPS director of high schools Larry Ramirez. “The culture of success is not limited to students within the AVID program, it is a culture that is felt throughout the school and leads to the ongoing success of McNary graduates.”

McNary High School will now become the third school in the Salem-Keizer School District to achieve demonstration school status following Stephens and Claggett Creek middle schools.

Learn more about AVID online at <https://salkeiz.k12.or.us/parents/college-career/>.



*Cutline: Principal Jespersen is joined by McNary High School staff to celebrate the designation of McNary High School as an AVID National Demonstration School on April 21, 2022.*

###

Led by Superintendent Christy Perry, [Salem-Keizer School District 24J](https://www.salemkeizer.org/) is the second-largest school district in Oregon. Nearly 6,000 employees serve a diverse student-body of 40,000 students, who speak more than 100 different languages in 65 schools, throughout the cities of Salem and Keizer.