AVID History

Avid began in 1980 by Mary Catherine Swanson, then-head of the English department at San Diego’s Clairemont High School. The federal courts issued an order to desegregate the city’s schools, bringing large numbers of inner city students to suburban schools. While applauding the decision, Swanson wondered how these underserved students would survive at academically acclaimed Clairemont High. Her answer was AVID, an academic elective. But it’s more than a program—it’s a philosophy: Hold students accountable to the highest standards, provide academic and social support, and they will rise to the challenge. Beginning with one high school and 32 students, AVID now impacts more than 700,000 students in more than 4,900 schools and 28 postsecondary institutions in 46 states, and across 16 other countries/territories. The AVID college readiness system spans elementary through higher education.

AVID Facts

The AVID Parent

AVID parents encourage their students to achieve academically and maintain regular contact with the AVID elective teacher.

The AVID Elective Teacher

The elective teacher supports their students by teaching organizational skills, study and test taking skills, and critical reading and writing strategies needed for college entrance and success. The elective teacher will monitor student progress in their other classes and provide support in their rigorous coursework.

The AVID Curriculum

The AVID curriculum, based on rigorous standards, was developed by middle and senior high school teachers in collaboration with college professors. It is driven by the WICOR method, which stands for writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading. AVID curriculum is used in AVID elective classes, in content-area classes in AVID schools, and even in schools where the AVID elective is not offered.

The AVID Tutor

Tutors are essential to the success of the AVID elective class, where they facilitate student access to rigorous curriculum. As students from colleges and universities, tutors receive formal training and also serve as role models. AVID students who continue their education in college often return to the program as tutors.

AVID

Advancement Via Individual Determination

avid adj. (L. avidus, eager for knowledge)

Richwoods High School
What is AVID?

AVID is an academic, regularly scheduled elective class, during the school day, based on writing as a tool of learning, the inquiry method, and collaborative grouping. The three main components of the program are:

- Academic instruction
- Tutorial support
- Motivational activities

Who is an AVID Student?

AVID students are students in the middle, capable of completing a college preparatory path with support. These students often are not realizing their full potential academically. In the identification process a number of criteria are considered, including:

- NWEA Scores
- 2.0 - 3.5 GPA
- Citizenship - less than two referrals resulting in a suspension
- Attendance - fewer than five absences for the semester (not due to an extended illness)
- Desire and Determination
- Historically Underrepresented in 4-year colleges/universities
- Other Special Circumstances/first in family to attend college
- Leadership qualities

AVID Activities

- Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, Reading (WICOR) methodologies are the basis for curriculum instruction
- Students participate in field trips to colleges/universities
- Students develop academic and social skills for success in all subject areas
- Guest speakers provide motivation and college and professional career information
- AVID students participate in extracurricular and community events

AVID Mission Statement

The mission of AVID is to ensure that ALL students, and most especially the least served students who are in the middle:

- Will succeed in rigorous curriculum
- Will complete a rigorous college preparatory path that includes at least one enriched or AP class each year
- Will maintain the AVID binder and take Cornell notes in their academic classes
- Will enter mainstream activities of the school
- Will increase their enrollment in four-year colleges
- Will become educated and responsible participants and leaders in a democratic society

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