



Advancement Via Individual Determination Overview

AVID is a philosophy encompassing the idea that “effort creates ability.” Thus, it is referred to as Advancement Via Individual Determination” or AVID from the Latin root “avidus” meaning “eager for knowledge.” The mission of AVID is “to ensure that all students – especially students in the middle not previously successful in a college prep curriculum – will succeed in a rigorous curriculum ... and increase their enrollment in four year colleges...”

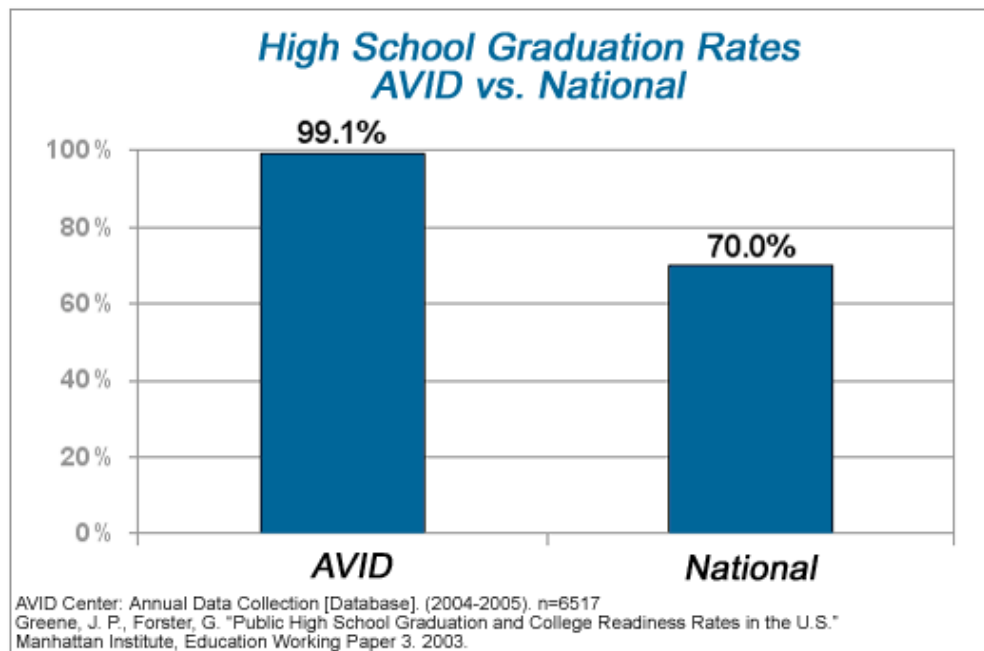
AVID was founded in 1980 by Clairemont High School English teacher Mary Catherine Swanson. In 1995, Swanson founded the AVID Center, a non-profit educational organization, to assist in the national dissemination of the program. Today, AVID is at work in nearly 2,300 middle and high schools in 36 states and 15 countries. In Texas, San Antonio became the first district to implement AVID in 1997. Since that time, AVID has expanded to 235 schools in 62 districts in Texas.

AVID is an initiative to prepare students in the academic middle for four-year college eligibility, especially those students under-represented in post-secondary institutions. Students are invited to apply for AVID. They go through an interview process, and upon meeting the criteria, are required to sign a contract, along with their parents, confirming their responsibilities and intentions to succeed in the program.

AVID participants must take an AVID class as one of their elective courses **and** enroll in one or more advanced academic class (Pre-AP or AP). The AVID class curriculum includes writing, college and careers, and strategies for success; two classes per week are allocated for tutoring by college students.

AVID RESULTS

What makes AVID students stay in school when others drop out? The support they receive, the commitment to success they feel, the inspirational teachers they encounter, and the self-determination they exercise — all these factors combine to make them persevere despite considerable challenges.



Since 1990, nearly 40,000 AVID students have graduated from high school and **94.3 percent of AVID students report enrolling in college**, 77.1 percent in four-year institutions and 17.2 percent in community colleges. (The national average for four-year college enrollment is 35 percent.) In Texas, 99 percent of our AVID graduates attend college with 83 percent attending a four-year college and 16 percent attending a two-year college. A well-developed AVID program:

- Improves school-wide standardized test scores,
- Boosts enrollment in Pre-AP and AP courses, and
- Increases the number of students attending college.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

The synergy created by the AVID initiative to increase a site's number of college bound students is particularly unique. The transformation of individual classroom teachers, who are enthusiastic, encouraged and invigorated by the success of their students, is as significant as the success of the students who actually enter and complete a four-year college. AVID is a school-wide initiative that works to influence the belief system and culture of the entire school. As AVID and the success of its students becomes a school-wide priority, teachers in all disciplines are challenged to change some of their beliefs and practices to help AVID students achieve. These changes typically help all students. As teachers observe the results of AVID methods, they often seek to adapt them in their own classrooms, tending to "AVIDize" an entire school.

AVID incorporates something badly needed by schools and teachers engaged in the daunting task of reform: strong collegial support. By raising expectations of students, it stimulates wider access to college preparatory programs. AVID changes the way teachers and students approach their work by arming teachers with effective strategies that emphasize organization, collaboration, writing and inquiry. AVID challenges students to succeed, prepares them to succeed, and supports them as they pursue the goal of higher education.

You Should Know

The national average of Latino students who enroll in four-year colleges is 29 percent. However, 43 percent of the Latino students who participate in AVID enroll in four-year colleges – almost twice the national average.

AVID meets the untapped potential of students by:

- Providing academic instruction and other support to students to prepare them for the eligibility to four-year colleges and universities
- Giving students college level entry skills
- Increasing the "coping skills" of program students
- Motivating program students to see college educations
- Increasing the student's level of career awareness

WHAT DOES AVID COST?

- A good estimate to determine the cost of AVID is \$1.80 per student per day.
- AVID costs can be broken down as follows: Tutoring costs - 45 percent; teacher training – 30 percent; curriculum materials and supplies - 20 percent; administrative - 5 percent.

For more information, please go to www.avid.panam.edu or contact Eileen Friou in Richardson ISD, 469-593-0695.