



San Diego Unified School District

Fact Sheet

Advancement Via Individual Determination

What AVID Does

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a fifth through twelfth-grade system to prepare students in the academic middle for four-year college eligibility. These are largely low-income students who are capable of completing a college-prep curriculum but are falling short of their potential. AVID's systematic approach is designed to support students and educators as they increase schoolwide/districtwide learning performance. AVID's mission is to ensure all students, especially these least served students, succeed through challenging curriculum, complete a rigorous college preparatory path, participate in school activities, increase their enrollment in four-year colleges, and become educated and responsible participants/leaders in democratic society. See www.avidonline.org.

How AVID Does It

AVID includes an elective class with trained tutors, an AVID teacher and a site team of subject teachers. The motivational classes focus on college preparation, study skills, reading, writing and math. They emphasize inquiry and collaboration, so students clarify, analyze and synthesize material. Students also benefit from lessons taught by college professors, specialized presentations by guest speakers and field trips to colleges and businesses.

The AVID Difference

AVID's success rate differentiates it from other school reform programs. Independent research and AVID's own thorough data collection has shown the AVID program to be effective in preparing students for college. Over 40,000 AVID students have graduated from high school and entered a four-year university or college. **Other achievements include:**

- 95% of AVID students enroll in college, 77.1% in four-year institutions: a rate three times the California average.
- 85% of AVID grads expect to finish college in 4-5 years. Their mean college GPA is 2.94.
- 55% of African-American AVID students enroll in four-year colleges; the national average is 33%.
- 43% of Hispanic students who participate in AVID enroll in four-year colleges, exceeding the national average of 29%.
- 84% of AVID graduates complete the courses necessary for university acceptance; the California average is 34%.

Universities look to AVID for culturally diverse students who are prepared for college success. San Diego City Schools is committed to supporting learning in the classroom through AVID programs at many of our schools.

SUMMARY	
❖	AVID is an in-school academic support program for grades 5-12 that prepares students for college eligibility and success.
❖	Identifies underachieving, and/or disadvantaged students and places them in advanced classes.
❖	Levels the playing field for minority, rural, low-income and other students whose families traditionally do not attend college.
❖	Serves more than 120,000 students in 2,600 middle and high schools in 40 states and 15 countries.
❖	95% of AVID's graduates enroll in college and 85% remain there continuously.
❖	Founded in 1980 by Mary Catherine Swanson, a teacher at Clairemont High School.