

Date: May 6, 2016

For ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

For Board Brief  X

**FROM:** Jodie Peters, AVID District Director

**THROUGH:** Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer  
Alvin Crawley, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Karen A. Graf, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) College Readiness System Overview

**SUMMARY:**

The AVID College Readiness System is an initiative used to support college access for select determined students enrolling in a four-year college or university. Currently, more than 450 students are currently enrolled in the targeted AVID elective course throughout the division in grades 6-12. The attached School Board Brief provides a detailed and succinct program overview, program activities, data findings, and recommendations moving forward.

**BACKGROUND:**

The AVID program is more than 35 years old and is being used to change the future and trajectory for more than 1.2 million students across 47 U.S. states and 17 territories in the world. In ACPS, the AVID elective has been a part of the Francis Hammond Middle School, George Washington Middle School, and T.C. Williams High School for the past seven years. This year marks the inaugural year for Jefferson Houston for their first AVID class.

Currently, efforts are underway to expand AVID to include the AVID Elementary model at Cora Kelly Elementary School for Science, Technology and Math in 2016-2017. In the AVID secondary system, strong, dedicated site teams will work with the AVID Schoolwide model at Francis Hammond and George Washington in an effort to create a college-going environment for all students through the planning of rigorous, strategic instruction, systematic planning and access, and developing a formidable college-going environment.

**IMPACT:**

Over the past seven years there has been success among participating students in the AVID elective course. The AVID elective is comprised of more than 75% Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARM) students and approximately 70% first generation college-going students. Cohorts have doubled over time and retention in the elective course is at an all-time high topping 80%. GPAs have increased more than 0.5% in the high school grades and a majority of students are taking at least one course of rigor, including Honors, Advanced Placement, or Dual Enrollment courses. More than 98% of middle school students are taking an Honors course and are successfully completing Algebra in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. AVID seniors have boasted a 100% on-time graduation and college acceptance rate for the past three years. More than half of the AVID

tutors are past ACPS AVID graduates who are currently enrolled in local colleges and continue to give back to their local community.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends continued support of the AVID College Readiness System (ACRS) as a means to increase access to higher education and improve student achievement.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** 160506\_AVID\_Brief\_v1  
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