



The School Board Brief: AVID

May 6, 2016

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) College Readiness System is an initiative used to support college access for select, determined students who may be the first in their family to attend higher education, qualify as English Language Learners, receive free or reduced lunch, or are members of an underrepresented minority group enrolling in a four-year college or university. ACPS has invested in this initiative since 2009 and has seen continuing growth and success in the past few years. More than 450 students are currently enrolled in the targeted AVID elective course throughout the division in grades 6-12. Additionally, expansion is taking off to include the AVID Elementary model and AVID Schoolwide model at the middle schools. AVID serves as a 'game changer' for many students and families by offering college knowledge and access for students who may not otherwise see higher education as an option. AVID meets a majority of the priorities in Goal 1 of ACPS Strategic Plan, resulting in educational excellence and achievement gap reduction. The accompanying presentation will outline finer details regarding the expansion efforts and success of the current program implementation.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

AVID is a college-readiness system targeted at decreasing the achievement gap and increasing opportunities for students who primarily are underserved and underrepresented in four-year colleges and universities. AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. Key program highlights include:

1. 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's first AVID class.
2. Currently, more than 450 students take part in the elective class at these four sites in grades 6-12. These classes include the following:
 - 40% of the week is spent with college-age tutors responsible for supporting students with problem-solving scenarios related to multiple content areas.
 - 40% of the week includes focus on critical reading and writing that will prepare students for college-level rigorous coursework.
 - 20% of the week focuses upon team building, collaboration, and service.
 - Students have visited over 15 different colleges so far this year
 - Over 25 different speakers have presented on post-secondary and career pathway options, including panel discussions involving college, university, and corporate representatives.
 - Community service programs include activities such as peer mentoring and coaching at the elementary level, work with non-profits, and Volunteer Alexandria.



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3. AVID has graduated three classes, resulting in 80% persistence rate (college enrollment and continued matriculation) in higher education.

DATA FINDINGS

1. Over the past seven years there has been great 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
 - Approximately 70% first generation college-going students
 - 41% Hispanic, 48% Black, 5% Asian, 5% White, and 1% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
2. 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.
3. More than 98% of AVID middle school students are taking an Honors course and are successfully completing Algebra in the 8th grade. AVID seniors have boasted a 100% on-time graduation and college acceptance rate for the past three years.
4. 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.
5. Scholarship awards for the 2015-16 academic year are currently at \$181,026.
6. Current graduating seniors who were a part of the AVID program received more than 130 college acceptances at over 40 colleges and universities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. 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. As a college readiness system, the leadership and staff will use AVID to positively impact change with leadership, instruction, systems, and culture school-wide.
2. 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 by developing a challenging college-going environment.

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