



Advancement Via Individual Determination

NEWS RELEASE

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AVID Center

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AVID Districts Note Results and Benefits *Fairfax Evaluation Highlights Student Achievement*

SAN DIEGO – Research and data have been at the heart and soul of AVID since its inception in 1980. Having reliable data in order to evaluate and improve the system has been a hallmark and reason why so many districts and schools adopt the program. Recently, various districts have conducted independent research to validate the efficacy of their AVID implementation. One notable district evaluation is Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS).

AVID has been in FCPS since 1993 and is currently in 21 of the 48 secondary schools. Fairfax County Public Schools conducted an evaluation of AVID as implemented in the district to evaluate how well AVID had been achieving its expected outcomes. District evaluators wanted to know if AVID was implemented both as designed and disseminated by AVID Center and as adapted by the local district.

The evaluation found that AVID was implemented in most schools as planned, with the evaluators noting that AVID reflected the approach of rigor, relevance, and relationships endorsed by the FCPS board in August 2009. They further found that the AVID program had consistently developed a general understanding of the program activities and expected outcomes among administrators, instructional staff, and students.

Schools were found to be implementing AVID with good fidelity to the 11 Essentials; with three of the 15 AVID schools implementing the program schoolwide. The evaluators emphasized AVID's "integrated system of offerings," concluding that "All of the different parts of the program work together to result in the outcomes reported." AVID scored 4 out of 4 on the district Outcome scale. The evaluators recommended that no part of the full AVID program be removed or changed, noting that the results probably came from the interactions of all program components building on each other. Further, they recommended that AVID be implemented schoolwide in all district schools.

"It's gratifying to see the hard work of a district implementing AVID be validated by outside research," said AVID CEO Sandy Husk. "It's also validating to us that the evaluators studied how close schools were in adhering to fidelity to AVID's 11 Essentials, so that we can clearly demonstrate that schools who stick to the prescribed curriculum and design, help move students and schools forward to college readiness."

Summary of Findings

The following are select highlights from the evaluation. Details can be found online.

FCPS considers Proficiency on the Chemistry End-of-Course test and passing of a math course beyond Algebra II as predictors of college success. Additionally, the evaluation examined the rate at which students passed at least three AP or IB classes.

- AVID students passed the Chemistry EOC at a 9 percent higher rate than the matched sample and the district overall; 93 percent and 84 percent respectively.
- Twenty-four percent more AVID seniors passed at least one math class beyond Algebra II than the matched sample; 89 percent and 65 percent respectively.
- Ninety-four percent of AVID seniors received “Advanced” diplomas, while only 66 percent of comparison students reached that level of achievement. The Advanced diploma requires additional credits in Mathematics, Laboratory Science, and Language, with the addition of passing nine end-of-course tests. A student could obtain a Standard diploma and take enough credits for acceptance to a 4-year college, but not pass enough EOC tests to receive an Advanced diploma.
- Seventy-eight percent of AVID seniors passed three or more AP or IB classes. The matched sample had only 45 percent complete three or more classes. AVID students also outperformed comparison students by race and income.

FCPS obtained information from the National Student Clearinghouse on all district graduates from 2008–2009 to assess the college enrollment rates of AVID graduates and the comparison group. Among AVID graduates of 2009, 82 percent were enrolled in a college in the 2011–2012 school year, while only 68 percent of the comparison were.

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ABOUT AVID

AVID is a non-profit, proven college readiness system that closes the achievement gap. Today, AVID is implemented in approximately 4,900 schools in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and 16 countries/territories and impacts more than 700,000 students in grades K–12 and in 41 postsecondary institutions. The AVID College Readiness System transforms a school’s academic culture to increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges and succeed in higher education and training.

For more information, visit www.avid.org.