



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, July 16, 2013

CONTACTS:
Megan Overman, GCISD
Liz Morse, AVID Center
megan.overman@gcisd.net
lmorse@avidcenter.org

AVID partners with Texas school district to pilot virtual program *iUniversity Prep & AVID tailor college readiness strategies to virtual learners*

GRAPEVINE, TX – Students in Grapevine-Colleyville ISD’s *iUniversity Prep* virtual school will be the first in the nation to have access to the proven college readiness strategies of AVID in a virtual learning environment.

Grapevine-Colleyville ISD (GCISD) has teamed up with AVID Center to offer the first fully virtual AVID program through the district’s new state-wide tuition-free online public school, *iUniversity Prep*. AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a college readiness system that teaches students essential tools and strategies needed to be successful in school and post-high school education. GCISD already offers AVID at the middle and high school levels at its traditional campuses.

“Together with AVID Center, we are breaking new ground in the evolving world of virtual learning as we continue to seek new and innovative ways to prepare students for their college and career paths,” said Dr. Robin Ryan, GCISD Superintendent. “We are excited to partner with AVID to cultivate a strong virtual college readiness program that benefits students in GCISD and, ultimately, public education everywhere.”

The partnership also aligns with future-focused goals that both GCISD and the AVID Center share to meet students’ educational needs of today to better prepare them for the future.

“We are honored that GCISD has incorporated AVID into this innovative school,” said AVID Executive Director Jim Nelson. “Our mission is to ensure all students are prepared for college and *iUniversity Prep* is providing an opportunity for all Texas students – many of whom may not fit into the traditional classroom setting – to get a quality education.”

GCISD’s *iUniversity Prep* virtual school is a state-accredited, college preparatory academy that combines the flexibility of online instruction with the availability of face-to-face academic support from site-based, highly qualified teachers. This unique program provides rigorous coursework in a flexible format. The addition of AVID to *iUniversity Prep* will offer further support for virtual students to help them maximize their success and equip them to be successful in college and career.

AVID strategies for success will be taught school-wide, throughout all classes offered at *iUniversity Prep*. All teachers and tutors with the virtual school are being trained in AVID strategies and incorporating those into the virtual learning environment. Also, *iUniversity Prep* will offer an AVID elective course for students as they take on additional rigorous courses.

“The virtual AVID student is no different from the traditional AVID student; in fact, all students can benefit from AVID strategies to some degree,” said Dr. Kaye Rogers, GCISD’s director of iUniversity Prep. “What is different is what those strategies look like in a virtual setting.”

For example, in a virtual learning environment, students are largely responsible for managing their time and staying organized and on task with their courses. Incorporating AVID strategies tailored for virtual learning will keep students on track and increase their success, she explained.

“Skills such as these are essential for students to be successful in school, college and in career,” Rogers continued. “With the addition of the success strategies of AVID infused into the complete structure of iUniversity Prep, we are giving our students a strong framework within the virtual environment to meet their academic goals now and in the future.”

Enrollment for iUniversity Prep is ongoing and is open to students across the state of Texas. For more information, please complete a short [survey of interest](#) and visit www.iuniversityprep.org.

About GCISD

Grapevine-Colleyville ISD is a K-12 public school system in the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Serving more than 13,400 students and their families, GCISD maintains a long-standing commitment to educational excellence for all students. Building on a mission to be The BEST, the district continues increasing the level of rigor in classrooms to address expectations of the community and better prepare students for success in college and their future careers. In the third year of its strategic plan, GCISD is transforming its culture to provide the foundation that today’s 21st Century learners need to be successful now and in life beyond high school.

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About AVID

AVID is a non-profit, proven college readiness system that closes the achievement gap. With more than 30 years of proven success, AVID is implemented in more than 4,900 schools in 45 states and 16 countries/territories. AVID impacts more than 700,000 students in grades K-12, as well as students in 28 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.

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