

To: Board of Education

From: Kevin Harrell, executive director, student services
Leah Wisdom, assistant director, student services

Re: Update on Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)

Date: April 6, 2017

Background:

Associated Board of Education Goals for 2016-2017:

- Develop and align district expectations for curriculum, instruction, and assessment to raise the achievement of all students.
- Enhance programming and supports to meet the varied academic, social, emotional and behavioral needs of each student.

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is a college readiness system for elementary through higher education that is designed to increase schoolwide performance and learning.

AVID's Schoolwide initiative is meant to create college-going campuses where all students graduate college and are career ready. While AVID serves all students through its Schoolwide system, the AVID Elective course focuses on the least served students, those that are in the academic middle.

The AVID curriculum, based on rigorous standards, was developed by middle and senior high school teachers in collaboration with college professors. It is driven by the WICOR method, which stands for writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading. AVID curriculum is used in AVID Elective classes and in content-area classes in AVID middle and high schools.

An AVID Elective student profile:

- In the academic middle (B, C, and even D students)
- Average to high reading and math test scores
- Has a desire and willingness to work hard
- Capable of completing rigorous curriculum but may be falling short of their potential
- May be the first in their family to attend college, low income, or minority

AVID Center Initiatives:

Blended professional development is a strong component of the AVID professional development system. The AVID system works when teachers are trained in AVID strategies and methodologies. Quality professional development is foundational to an effective AVID system. AVID Center utilizes technology, distance learning, online forums, file-sharing, and pre- and post-training modules to support face-to-face professional learning.

AVID is focused on addressing equity factors that inhibit various groups of students from being college and career ready. AVID Center offers a CRT (Culturally Relevant Teaching) strand to infuse the culture of all students in classrooms and enhance curriculum to increase student comprehension of content. Also, AVID Center has implemented the MMI (African American Male Initiative) focused on increasing the number of African American males attending college.

Leadership training is valued as an essential component of AVID and is a key focus area for AVID. Training for strong leadership includes AVID District Leadership (ADL) and principal leadership academies.

AVID Schoolwide for college and career readiness is a focus for AVID and goes beyond academic achievement for just the AVID elective students. The Schoolwide initiative assists in creating and/or enhancing a college-going, college-ready culture within the school. After the fourth or fifth year of implementation, AVID becomes institutionalized as a Schoolwide college (and career) readiness system to meet all students' needs.

AVID was approved for implementation at both high schools by the Board of Education on April 23, 2012 for up to \$70,000 in funding through the General Operating Fund. The 2013-2014 board goal allowed expansion of AVID to the middle schools with a board-approved budget of \$150,000 to successfully implement the program. At the end of the 2015-2016 school year, the four middle schools completed their second year of AVID and the high schools their fifth year. Enrollment at the high schools has more than tripled since fall 2012.

Current Report:

A brief summary of the AVID system and growth in the AVID Elective course will be presented. Information in regard to AVID Schoolwide and its support of students will also be shared.