

AVID - Advancement Via Individual Determination

One way that the Long Beach Unified School District is fulfilling its mission to and ensuring the educational success of students is through **AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination** – an academic elective especially for those students in the middle who were not previously successful in a college prep program but who show academic potential. *“When students who are overlooked as having college potential are supported with the academic and social skills they need, their lives can change dramatically.”* (Mary Catherine Swanson, Founder, **AVID**)

AVID was developed based on the philosophy of access to rigor with support and hard work. It helps students improve their academic record and begin college preparation with the goal of enrolling in and graduating from a four-year college. With additional support, a commitment to achieve, and the development of skills and knowledge, students are prepared to be successful at the highest levels of study, up to and including pre-AP, honors, and Advanced Placement courses. The **AVID** Essentials include the WIC instructional strategies – writing, inquiry, collaboration – and a framework of support methodologies develop academic skills, while **AVID** support structures enable students to become competitive in the college application process.

The **AVID** academic elective is a regularly scheduled college preparatory class that has at its core a curriculum of essential instructional methodologies for students in grades six through twelve. In addition to the **AVID** elective course, students are enrolled in honors (at the high school level) or college prep English, mathematics, social science and language classes required for admission to colleges and universities. The **AVID** class supports student success in these challenging academic classes by teaching study skills, writing skills and critical thinking. Tutors work with students to help them with problems they may encounter in these challenging courses. **AVID** students are expected to maintain C’s or higher in order to meet the four-year college entrance requirements.

What differentiates **AVID** from other educational reform programs is its success rate. Since 1990, nearly 15,000 **AVID** students have graduated from high school and gone on to college. According to research on **AVID** by the University of California, San Diego, high school students enrolled in the program for at least three years graduate and enter college at a 93% rate, 75% higher than the national average.

Over 60% of **AVID**’s graduates enroll in four-year colleges and universities. The national average for four-year college enrollment is 35%. Latino **AVID** graduates are going on to four-year colleges at almost two times the national average, and the program’s African American graduates are going on to four-year colleges at one and a half times the national average. After two years, 89% of the **AVID** students in one four-year university were still enrolled and on track for graduation; this retention rate is far higher than the college average.

At the present time, the following LBUSD middle schools have **AVID** programs: DeMille, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson Leadership Academy, Marshall, and Stephens. Marshall Middle School is a National Demonstration Site. High schools with the **AVID** include Cabrillo, Millikan and Wilson. Students can enter the program as early as the 6th grade and remain in it through the twelfth. It is recommended that students enter the **AVID** program no later than 10th grade.

If parents would like more information about **AVID**, they may contact their child’s school guidance counselor, the Middle/K-8 and High School Offices, and/or visit “**AVID** Resources” on the **AVID** website at www.avidcenter.org .