



AVID IN CALIFORNIA – 2007-2008

Advancement Via Individual Determination began as an idea at Clairemont High School in 1980 when Mary Catherine Swanson was challenged to create a support system for 30 underserved students. Built upon the philosophy that "effort creates ability," she developed the AVID support-system scaffolding that now fuels the college-going dreams of 145,000 middle and high school California students. From that first classroom of 30 students AVID has grown by leaps and bounds. In the 2007-2008 academic year the AVID elective is being offered in 1,380 California schools and nationally in over 3,500 schools in 45 states and 15 foreign countries. Beginning in 1995, the California legislature began funding a regional infrastructure to support expansion and quality of the AVID program. Today, eleven region directors and their staffs oversee the professional development, electives program, support and partnerships basic to insuring the quality of AVID in California.

AVID targets students who have traditionally been left out of the college-going mainstream. In California, 74 percent of the students are Hispanic, African American, Native American and multi-racial.

Currently, there are 130 AVID National Demonstration Schools, two-thirds of which are in California. Here's some other impressive California AVID data:

- Completion of the "a through g" curriculum is very strong evidence of a serious college-going culture. By this important measurement, AVID students statewide (88% completion rate) outperformed their peers throughout the state (35.9% completion rate).
- AVID is extremely successful in getting underrepresented students accepted into the UC and CSU systems.

Underrepresented Students	CSU College-Going Rates	UC College-Going Rates
<i>California AVID</i>	47.5%	12%
<i>California Overall</i>	11.8%	7.8%

- In California 98% of its AVID students are on track for acceptance to post secondary education.
- CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam) addresses state academic content standards in English-language Arts through grade 10 and mathematics through Algebra I. The graduating class of 2006 was the first class held accountable to the CAHSEE which required both sections of the exam be passed in addition to all other graduation requirements before a diploma could be conferred.

Newly released exit exam data spanning both Northern and Southern California school districts include a revelation that policymakers say is nothing short of extraordinary: AVID students are outperforming their non-AVID peers—not by a fraction, but substantially.

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