

## WHAT IS AVID?

AVID is a fourth- through twelfth-grade system to prepare students in the academic middle for four-year college eligibility. These are students who are capable of completing college-prep but but don't always live up to their

full potential. The core component is the AVID elective, which supports students as they tackle the most rigorous classes. AVID's teaching strategies, curriculum, and trainings are used not only in the AVID elective class, but by subject-area teachers schoolwide.

### Students

AVID students are enrolled in a school's toughest classes, such as Advanced Placement, and attend an academic elective class—called AVID—taught within the school day by a trained AVID teacher. The three main components of the program are academic instruction, tutorial support, and motivational activities. Their self-images improve, and they become academically successful leaders and role models for other students. They are proud to be in the program.

### Results

- AVID students are more likely to take AP classes, complete their college eligibility requirements, and get into four-year colleges than students who don't take AVID.
- Almost all AVID students who participate for at least three years are accepted to college, with roughly three quarters getting into four-year universities.

AVID also helps ensure students, once accepted to college, possess the higher-level skills they need for college success.

### Curriculum

The AVID curriculum, based on rigorous standards, was developed by middle and senior high school teachers in collaboration with college professors. AVID is based on writing as a tool of learning, the inquiry method, collaborative grouping, and academic reading.

### Tutors

Tutors are essential to the success of the AVID elective class, where they facilitate student access to rigorous curriculum. As students from colleges and universities, tutors receive formal training and also serve as role models. AVID students who continue their education in college often return to the program as tutors.

### Parents

Parents encourage their students to achieve academically, participate on an advisory board and in AVID parent and site team meetings, and maintain regular contact with the AVID coordinator. Many parents and students participate in AVID Family Workshops.

### Community

Colleges demonstrate their support of AVID programs in many ways. They may provide class speakers, offer college credit courses to AVID high school students, include AVID students in residential, academically-oriented summer bridge programs, and follow and support the progress of AVID students during their college careers. The community supports AVID by providing speakers and summer apprenticeships for AVID students.

### Where is AVID?

AVID has been adopted by over 3,500 schools representing 45 states, and is also available in Canada and through the Department of Defense Dependents Schools. This year AVID will reach more than 250,000 students.

### Who Pays for AVID?

School districts enter into agreements with AVID Center for materials, membership and professional development. Districts provide public school teachers and tutors.



**WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING:**

AVID Center was named one of the nation's top 100 charities for 2002 by *Worth* magazine, and has been featured on CBS 60 Minutes II and in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times* and hundreds of other newspapers. AVID Founder Mary Catherine Swanson was CNN and *Time* magazine's 2001 America's Best Teacher. She was also honored with the prestigious Charles A. Dana Foundation Award for Pioneering Achievement in Education and the McGraw Prize in Education. Swanson has received the Showcase of Excellence award from the National Council of States on Inservice Education.

"My AVID teacher saw me as a person with real dreams, goals, ambitions, disappointments and achievements. She pushed me when I needed a push, talked to me when I needed a talk and gave me time, affection, and care. I became an individual in her class rather than another student sitting in a desk."

Maja Larysz  
David. W. Butler High  
School Matthews, NC

"Within a short while my GPA rose from a 2.0 to over 4.0, I was taking the most rigorous classes in the school and doing well in them. I was participating in community service and volunteering as often as possible. AVID was the key to all the great things that happened to me."

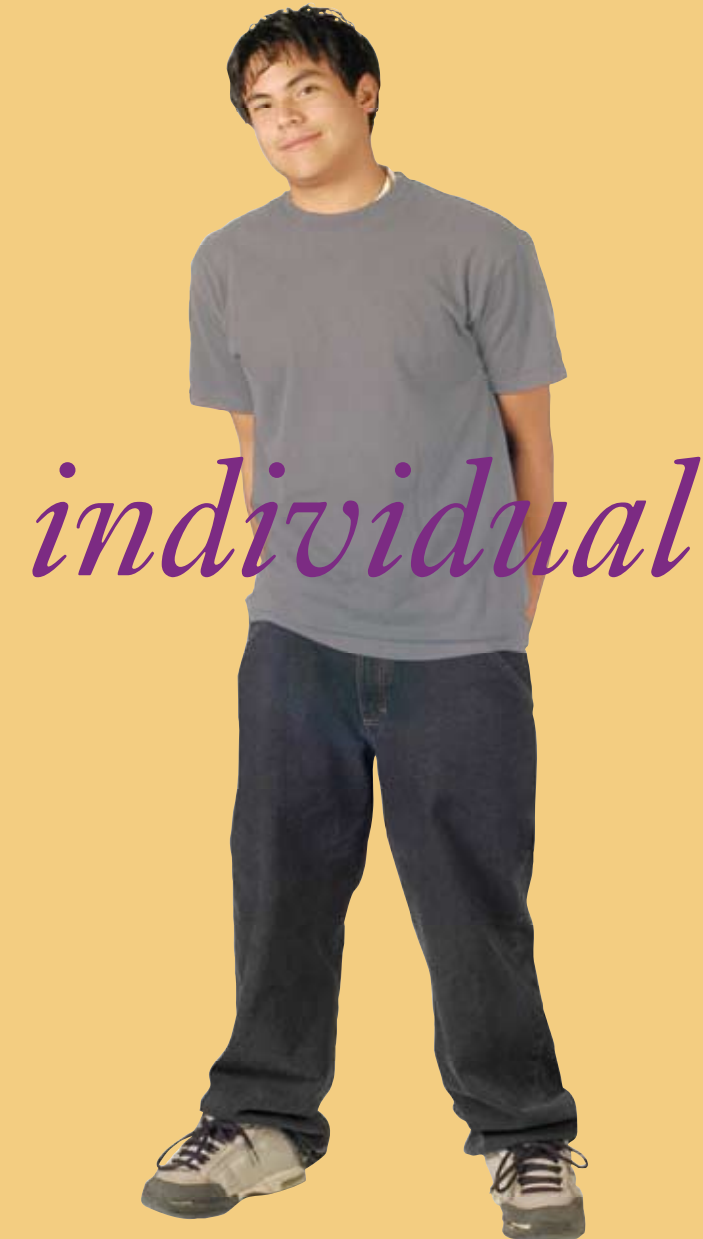
Jesus Medrano  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

"AVID taught me to be organized, prepared, to adapt to an environment, and to sit in the front row of a classroom to make a good impression. I learned that when there is no education, there is no hope. I applied to college in the spring of my 12th grade year and was accepted to three universities."

Sharlette Bates  
University of Texas at San Antonio  
San Antonio, TX

*advancement*

*via*



*determination*