



AVID College Readiness System: Fairfax County Public Schools

Background

Beginning in just four schools 17 years ago, the AVID College Readiness System has spread in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) to 23 sites across the district. The supports afforded to students by the AVID College Readiness System have been designed to target the academic average students to foster a college ready culture across the district. The high expectations of teachers, combined with the strategies that work for all students.

As of the 2012-13 school year, FCPS has over 2,000 students served in 96 sections, with average of 8 AVID teachers who have completed the intensive AVID Summer Institute training in the areas of English, Science, Social Studies, Administration, Counseling, and AVID Implementation for Elective Teachers. This cadre of trained AVID teachers forms the AVID Site team at each campus. A key responsibility of this team is to expand the AVID instructional strategies to every classroom in the building and to build a culture of college ready students throughout the school (key components of schoolwide AVID). Below is a matrix that provides the increase of students enrolled in the AVID College Prep elective courses from 2006-2012.

FCPS AVID Student Enrollment

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Students	668	831	1123	1372	1492	1747	2033

Impact on Student Success: Academic Rigor

The results of the AVID College Readiness system in FCPS have been extremely promising. The increase in AVID student enrollment has increased to the number of students taking Honors, AP and IB classes in FCPS high school programs. This has also been true of increases in Advanced Academic (AA) and high school-credit classes such as Algebra (ALG) and foreign languages.

Students Receiving "C" or Higher in Advanced Academic, Algebra, and other High School Credit Courses

Courses	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
AA Courses (9-12)	88%	93.6%	92.6%	93.0%	94%
HS/not ALG (8)	65.7%	64.3%	76.5%	65.7%	84.4%
ALG (8)	42.5%	44.3%	51.6%	76%	71.3%

Impact on Student Success

Data Collection and Site Teams

The AVID Coordinator at each site is responsible for providing leadership to the site team and working with the AVID District Director (District level leader) to gather annual student data and senior data. The data collected at middle and high schools includes but is not limited to eighth graders taking algebra, AVID high school students enrolled in honors, AP, and IB classes, seniors completing four-year college entrance requirements and senior data on application to college, college acceptance, and 2-year or 4-year college plans

The matrix below represents aggregated individual data submitted by AVID seniors in Fairfax County Public Schools. The number of seniors submitting a form can be less than, greater than or equal to the number reported in the fall due to changes in students’ schedules, participation factors or other issues. These numbers are intended to provide context for the site team, district team, and AVID Center staff.

Choices	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Applied	100%	91.7%	86.1%	98.8%	82.6%
Accepted	97%	87.5%	77.8%	86.6%	71.6%
Plan to Attend 4-yr college	84.8%	66.7%	55.6%	65.9%	49.5%
Plan to Attend 2-year college	9.1%	29.2%	43.1%	30.5%	44.1%

The above data is indicative of the impact of an intentional focus on creating a college-going culture. The sampling of data from 2008 – 2012 indicates that there has been a steady increase in students who planned to go to two-year colleges versus four-year colleges as their initial postsecondary experience. College affordability, reduction in work-study funding, and other financial constraints were among decision factors for the trending to two –year colleges. Even with the financial constraints, the 2012 data indicates that 93.6% of the FCPS AVID seniors plan to attend a college or university after high school.

AVID is aligned with the FCPS vision of “Looking to the Future” and within this vision FCPS honors a belief system of preparing all students for education and employment beyond high school. The evidence of FCPS vision to results is found in its impacting over 2000 students with 94% enrolled in Advanced Academics and an average of 94% transitioning to postsecondary education and thus building a strong infrastructure to support an educated workforce.