

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) In Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD)

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's (LVJUSD's) mission is that each student will *graduate with the skills needed to contribute and thrive in a changing world.*

The mission of *Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)* is to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. Regardless of their life circumstances, *AVID* students overcome obstacles and achieve success. They graduate and attend college at higher rates, and more importantly, they think critically, collaborate, and have confidence to set high expectations to conquer the challenges that await them.

Background

AVID programming has existed in LVJUSD in various iterations for nearly 20 years. Our partnership with *AVID* started again in earnest during the 2018-2019 school year. A team of District Leadership and Site Administrators began the work of planning *AVID* implementation for Arroyo Seco Elementary and Jackson Avenue Elementary at the *AVID* Summer Institute.

Key features of *AVID* that align strongly with the current initiatives in our District include:

- *AVID* challenges belief systems and practices that keep students from achieving their true potential.
- *AVID* teachers facilitate deeper learning, using *AVID* instructional practices that increase learning rather than depending on only memorization.
- Rigorous academics with social-emotional support and skill development for career readiness enhance offerings at schools that implement *AVID*.

By opting to begin our work with *AVID* at the elementary level, we have been able to build a solid foundation for our students with opportunities to expand in the future.

AVID Elementary introduces and reinforces academic behaviors and higher-level thinking at a young age, thereby creating a ripple effect in later grades. Elementary students develop the academic habits they will need to be successful in middle school, high school, and college, in an age-appropriate and challenging way using *AVID* Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization and Reading (WICOR) instructional strategies. Children learn about organization, study skills, communication, and self-advocacy. *AVID Elementary* students take structured notes and ask and answer high-

level questioning strategies that go beyond routine recall answers. *AVID Elementary* closes the opportunity gap before it begins.

Status

In the midst of our third year with *AVID*, we have experienced incredible results since its implementation. *AVID Elementary* has allowed us to improve the depth and breadth of instruction using the *AVID* instructional strategies. This approach increased the percentage of students we have been able to reach exponentially.

Ms. Esmat, Principal of Arroyo Seco Elementary, on AVID Elementary at her site: “*AVID* has helped us develop a strong organizational structure for teachers and students. We use color coded notebooks and folders for subject areas, which coordinate with our planners. Our two grade levels are consistent and work closely together. The students have benefited greatly from this since they use a planner and a learning log to keep track of learning tasks and goals. *AVID* teachers have successfully incorporated inquiry strategies such as Philosophical chairs and Socratic circles with all *AVID* classrooms.”

Ms. Johnston, Principal of Jackson Avenue Elementary, on AVID Elementary at her site: “Our biggest success with *AVID* has been the use of goal setting in our classrooms. Each trimester, students look at their assessment data in areas of reading, writing, math, and behavior. They develop specific goals. The goals are posted in the room, in their student binders and are embedded in conversations, building awareness of student responsibility.”

Year 0: 2018-2019

Planning year - Prepared to implement *AVID Elementary* at Arroyo Seco Elementary and Jackson Avenue Elementary.

- Teams from each site attended *AVID* Summer Institute to begin planning *AVID* implementation at their sites

Year 1: 2019-2020

AVID Elementary Implementation began at Arroyo Seco Elementary and Jackson Avenue Elementary

- Jackson Avenue Elementary Implementation

- 9% of students in *AVID* program
 - Two *AVID* classes
 - 3rd grade - 1, 5th grade - 1
 - Two of Twenty-four teachers *AVID* trained
- Arroyo Seco Elementary Implementation
 - 19% of students in *AVID* program
 - Four *AVID* classes
 - 4th grade - 4
 - Seven of Twenty-three teachers *AVID* trained

Year 2: 2020-2021

AVID Elementary grew at Arroyo Seco Elementary and Jackson Avenue Elementary.

- Thirty-one additional teachers attended *AVID* training; this brought our District total to 40 teachers trained in *AVID* strategies at these two sites.
- Jackson Avenue Elementary
 - 81% of students are in *AVID* program
 - Seventeen *AVID* classes
 - Kindergarten - 4; 1st Grade - 3; 2nd Grade - 2; 3rd Grade - 3; 4th Grade - 3; and 5th Grade - 2
 - Seventeen of twenty-two teachers *AVID* trained
- Arroyo Seco Elementary
 - 33% of students are in *AVID*
 - Seven *AVID* classes
 - 4th - 3; 5th - 4
 - All 23 teachers *AVID* trained

Next Steps

As we look to deepen our partnership with *AVID* and expand the reach of its programming in our classrooms, it is important to ensure that the benefits of the program are felt district-wide. In order to accomplish this, we will continue to support programming at current *AVID* sites while planning implementation at additional *AVID Elementary* sites and the addition of *AVID Secondary*. Through this model, teachers

district-wide will benefit from the opportunities that go along with having *AVID* in our District. Our partnership has also afforded us the opportunity to deepen our work around issues of equity through grant-funded professional development for teams from each of our secondary sites.

- Expand professional development opportunities for teaching staff district-wide
 - Offering high-quality professional development for teaching staff at both *AVID* and non-*AVID* sites in our District.

- Continue growth and expansion of *AVID Elementary*
 - Arroyo Seco Elementary and Jackson Avenue Elementary
 - Increase percentage of students who benefit from *AVID* programming
 - Ongoing investment in *AVID* Professional Development for teachers
 - Beginning implementation of *AVID Elementary* at one additional elementary school with a planning year during the 2021-2022 school year.

- Addition of *AVID Secondary* - *AVID Secondary* equips teachers and schools with what they need to help students, who are often the first in their families to attend college and are from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education, succeed on the path to college and career success. To address this need, *AVID* has developed the *AVID* Elective course. For one period a day, students receive the additional academic, social, and emotional support that will help them succeed in their school's most rigorous courses. The power of *AVID Secondary* is the ability to impact students in the *AVID* Elective class and all students throughout the campus.
 - East Avenue Middle School
 - Beginning implementation of *AVID Secondary* with a planning year during the 2021-2022 school year.
 - Livermore High School
 - Planned implementation of *AVID Secondary* in the future at Livermore High School so that students will have a K-12 *AVID* pathway in our District.

- Panda Cares Grant - "Leading Change for Educational Equity"
 - Our partnership with *AVID* has afforded us the opportunity to participate in professional development titled, "Leading Change for Educational Equity."

Grant funding will cover the cost of teams of three from secondary sites and our District Office. Training fees are typically \$565, valuing our participation in the grant at over \$22,000.

- Learning objectives for this opportunity will directly relate to equity work already in progress in our District. Examples include:
 - Examining the need for an intentionally designed culture at sites in which a “college and career readiness for all” mentality can thrive.
 - Examining current practices around college and career readiness and establishing priorities to move this work forward.
 - Identifying the leadership approaches necessary to guide people around barriers and bringing about positive change.