Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)

What is AVID in BCPS?

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) in Baltimore County Public Schools is a K-12 College Readiness System whose mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. The AVID College Readiness System transforms the instruction, systems, leadership and culture of a school, ensuring improved academic performance for all students based on increased opportunities. Classes in AVID schools provide students with engaging approaches to rigorous content through the use of research-based best practices and real-world strategies to accelerate the performance of underrepresented students so that those students and all students across the entire campus succeed in college, career, and life. Students in AVID schools benefit from the expertise of AVID-trained teachers who implement AVID strategies and methodologies in their classrooms, an AVID Site Team and Instructional Leadership Team who analyze student data to increase enrollment in rigorous courses and create systems to support student success within those courses, and a schoolwide culture that promotes rigor, college and career readiness, and increased collaboration between the administration, faculty, students, families and the community.

What is AVID Elementary?

AVID is implemented at the elementary school level as a schoolwide system for supporting students in the development of their college and career readiness by advancing skills and strategies for Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading (WICOR). Teachers and students in AVID Elementary schools have a shared language that promotes consistency in thinking, processing, organizing, and delivering information. AVID Elementary schools support the development of students’ executive functioning skills, including using organizational tools such as binders, folders, and planners, time-management, and goal-setting. Higher order thinking skills are promoted through the use of Costa’s levels of questioning and student access to and comprehension of rigorous content is supported through focused note-taking schoolwide.
**Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)**

*What is AVID Secondary?*

At the secondary school level, AVID is also implemented as a schoolwide College Readiness System that includes the AVID Elective class to support students with the individual determination to attend college, but who may belong to a student group that is underrepresented in institutions of higher education or who may face barriers to achieving their goal of attending a four-year college or university. As a schoolwide system of instruction, AVID secondary schools also use WICOR strategies to enhance the designated curriculum in ways that increase student engagement, support the acquisition and enhancement of college and career readiness skills, and develop the social and emotional resilience of all learners so that they can be successful in a global society. Students enrolled in the AVID Elective class represent students in the academic middle who apply to enroll in the class. The AVID Elective class curriculum is developed by middle and high school instructional leaders in collaboration with college professors to make challenging content more accessible and includes twice-weekly AVID Tutorials during which AVID students engage in Socratic dialogue to work past points-of-confusion in order to be successful in rigorous courses including Advanced Placement courses and Early College Access Programs through dual-enrollment.

*Where is AVID in BCPS?*

AVID was first introduced into BCPS in 2002 in six high schools. Today, the AVID College Readiness System is implemented in 22 high schools, 23 middle schools, 11 elementary schools, and three learning centers. Each AVID school in BCPS has an AVID Site Coordinator who serves as an instructional leader in their school, a liaison to the BCPS Office of College and Career Readiness, and an AVID ambassador who establishes outreach and contact with families and the community. A complete list of [AVID schools in BCPS can be found here](#) Please contact your school’s AVID Site Coordinator with any questions you have about AVID in BCPS.