



## Research Summary

**Title:** Examining AVID and its Impact on Middle School Rigor and Student Preparedness

**Author:** Jeffery J. Huerta, Karen M. Watt, Jennifer T. Butcher

**Date of Publication:** Spring 2013

**Date of Review:** 7/17/14

### Purpose of the Study / Research Questions:

- Examine the impact of AVID in middle school on:
  - Middle school course rigor and enrollment
  - Students' high school performance and college readiness
- Do differences in high school performance exist between seniors who enrolled in AVID only in high school and seniors who enrolled in AVID in both middle school and high school?
- Do differences in the types of rigorous high school courses taken exist between seniors who enrolled in AVID only in high school and seniors enrolled in AVID in both middle school and high school?
- Do differences in the number of AP courses taken exist between seniors who enrolled in AVID only in high school and seniors who enrolled in AVID in both middle school and high school?

### Study Participants:

- Mixed methods, quantitative data from students and qualitative data from AVID coordinators, teachers, and administrators
- 3,143 AVID seniors
- 1,192 AVID coordinators, administrators, and teachers
  - 797 survey responses serve as basis for qualitative data

**Is there a comparison group?** Yes  No

If yes, is it a matched comparison group? Yes  No

- Data from two cohorts of students were collected:
  - Those who began AVID in high school and enrolled for 2, 3, or 4 consecutive years
    - Total = 11,641
  - Those who began AVID in middle school (8th through 12th grade, or 7th through 12th grade)
    - Total = 3,986
  - Excludes those who weren't continuously enrolled in AVID for consecutive years
  - Student Total: 15,267
    - Random and stratified sampling (representative samples obtained from each subgroup of the population) used to select sample size of 3,143 AVID students
    - 2,355 were in *AVID in HS Only* group
    - 788 were in *AVID in MS and HS* group

### Summary of findings

#### Qualitative results:

- Nearly two-thirds of the respondents said AVID has had some type of impact on schools' and districts' rigorous course offerings (e.g. adding new courses or more sections, and/or updating the curriculum)
- Schools are expanding access to rigorous courses

#### Quantitative results:

- AVID in *MS and HS* group had significantly higher overall and academic GPAs than *AVID in HS Only* group
  - Indicates that seniors who were in AVID in middle school and high school exhibited higher levels of academic performance than seniors who only participated in AVID in high school
- No significant differences found in SAT or ACT scores
- A significantly larger portion of the *AVID in MS and HS* group (93%) completed four-year college requirements than the *AVID in HS Only* group (89%)
- A significantly larger portion of the *AVID in MS and HS* group (78%) took AP courses than did the *AVID in HS Only* group (71%)
- The *AVID in MS and HS* group of students took, on average, a significantly higher number of AP courses than students in the *AVID in HS Only* group
  - The *AVID in MS and HS* group also took more AP exams

### Conclusions/ Key Takeaways & Applicability towards AVID:

- AVID implementation is associated with an expansion of rigorous course offerings
- AVID impacts schools' rigorous course offerings by expanding them and opening access. Even when course offerings aren't expanded due to budget constraints, AVID educators, coordinators, and administrators still focus on developing a rigorous curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking, note taking, etc.
- The longer a student is engaged in college preparation activities, like AVID, the more prepared that student is for high school rigor and college readiness
- AVID students receive more benefits the longer they stay in the program; they are more academically prepared and college ready. Students who start AVID in high school are also still academically prepared and college ready, but less so than their peers who started AVID in middle school.