School Board Executive Summary

AVID Program Update
February 18, 2010

Background
The Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program is a structured college preparatory program for first generation college goers, particularly students of color. The AVID instructional program is carried out through a daily elective class that helps students prepare for, and participate successfully in, rigorous college-preparatory curriculum. During the elective class, AVID students work with tutors to receive mentoring services that support them in taking courses that are more challenging.

The program has a solid research base and a proven track record. Since 1990, nearly 40,000 AVID students — primarily under-represented students of color — have graduated from high school and gone on to college. Ninety-four percent of AVID students report enrolling in college; 77% in four-year institutions and 17.2% in community colleges.

Purpose
To review the impact of the AVID program, now in its third year.

Recommendation
For Board information only

Presenter(s)/Contact(s)
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Overview
The AVID program has a solid research base, and is recognized nationally as promoting and supporting college readiness. The students enrolled in the program are often from families with limited experiences with post-
secondary education, and seeks to support students and their families in achieving that goal.

**Primary Issues to Consider**
- AVID and the Strategic Plan
- The AVID class
- AVID is data driven
- Next steps

**Supporting Documents**
AVID Program Update
What is AVID?
AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, is designed to increase school-wide learning and performance. The mission of AVID is to ensure that all students, and most especially the least-served, middle-achieving students, are college ready; that they are prepared for college enrollment and completion. AVID places under-achieving students in rigorous curriculum and gives them the support to achieve and succeed. The AVID program is in its third year in the Hopkins School district and continues to develop across all three secondary schools.

AVID is helping to close the achievement gap and create equity and access for the least-served students through the creation of a support system that is key to academic success, and a set of values that includes hard work, individual determination, high standards, and high expectations.

In addition to working directly with the students in the AVID classroom, AVID methodologies are also being incorporated into classrooms across all three buildings. North Junior High has implemented the use of binders building-wide. Teachers are encouraging/requiring their students to take Cornell notes. Students in core academic classes are learning about inquiry and collaboration as they participate in Socratic Seminars. Teachers in all three secondary schools have access to a monthly subscription that provides high-interest articles about many different subjects and the corresponding critical reading strategies that help students improve their reading and writing skills. This March, for the second year, AVID will sponsor College Week in the three secondary schools, featuring an on-site College Fair for Hopkins students in grades 9 through 12.
**AVID and the Strategic Plan**

The District’s commitment to college readiness was incorporated into the strategic plan in 2009. College readiness for all means that all Hopkins graduates will be prepared for a full range of post-secondary options through structural, motivational, and experiential college preparatory opportunities. The District’s strategic plan specifically identifies the AVID program as a method of achieving the college readiness goal, “*We will increase student access to and success within rigorous coursework through Pre-AP, AP, and AVID coursework and strategies.*”

Three short-term goals have been identified to address this objective in the strategic plan. They include expanding and supporting AVID classes in grades 7 – 12, aligning & integrating AVID college-readiness strategies throughout our secondary schools, and implementing AVID & college-readiness at grade 6.

**The AVID Class**

The AVID class is a college-prep course designed primarily to serve students who will be the first in their family to attend college; who represent populations that have historically been underserved by 4-year colleges and universities; who are low income; and those who may have other special circumstances. The racial make-up of the AVID class will generally have an inverse relationship to the racial make-up of the school. The AVID class is not a study hall, it is not a remedial course, and it is not for students who have extremely low ability or who lack motivation.

There are 8th and 9th grade AVID classes offered at North Junior High and a 9th grade AVID class at West Junior High. We’re working with our third year of 10th grade AVID students and now have AVID classes at both the junior and senior grade levels. We have a special celebration to look forward to, as Hopkins will graduate its first AVID class this spring.

The AVID kids continue to learn about studying and test-taking skills, note taking, communicating effectively with teachers, self-advocacy, and higher-level thinking. They carry their AVID binders throughout the school day,
take Cornell notes in all their classes, use their planners to stay on top of their busy academic and extra-curricular lives, and have begun to self-advocate with their teachers. Kids are learning how to “do school” in order to increase academic achievement and it is beginning to make a difference for many of the 150 students in the AVID classes. Some of the AVID students are taking advanced courses this year and, as each AVID class works on next year’s registrations, even more will be taking college preparatory coursework, including AP classes.

The AVID students visit local colleges and attend the National College Fair. They learn about the college application process, college entrance requirements and tests, and the ins and outs of financing their post-secondary educations.

**AVID is Data Driven**
AVID is a proven program that is currently used in over 40 states and 15 countries. The AVID program is in 22 Minnesota school districts. Virtually 100% of students who participate in the AVID program graduate from high school, and 95% of AVID graduates go on to college.

The program is affordable (less than $1 per student, per school day) and provides a significant return on investment. The AVID program is partially funded through Integration revenue from the State of Minnesota. Additional funds have been and will continue to be sought to enable AVID implementation from grades 6 through 12 in subsequent years.

AVID districts complete and submit numerous reports to track student and program progress. The High School gained AVID-certification last year and the junior highs are on track to become AVID-certified in 2010.

**Next Steps**
Guided by the Strategic Plan, action steps in moving forward with AVID include:
• Continue the development of AVID Site Teams at each secondary school, with the goal being to integrate the AVID strategies into all classrooms.
• Provide staff training so that staff can speak knowledgably about AVID and can assist in the recruitment of the correct students.
• Build rigor into all high school classes, beyond the AP courses, using NUA strategies, the Binders, Pre-AP Strategies, 6-12 and Beyond, Cornell Notes, and Socratic discussions. Provide the necessary staff development for these strategies.
• Every staff member should be engaged in student success, continuing a strong focus on college readiness.
• Expand the program in all grades 7 – 12, as we can assure a .333 position for each group of students. Ensure similarities at each of the junior highs.
• Collect data including the numbers of students served in each grade, followed by the number of these students successfully taking one or more AP classes.
• Explore the potential of piloting Elementary AVID at one site, with hopes to expand across the district, based on pilot results and available resources.