What is AVID?
AVID transforms the leadership, systems, instruction, and culture of a school, ensuring college readiness for all students. AVID impacts students throughout the school when trained teachers use AVID strategies to influence the academic and behavioral skills of their students.

AVID Elementary
In its 30-plus years, AVID has proven time and time again that, when given a system of rigorous curriculum and strategic support, students can be academically successful. AVID Elementary is a foundational component of the AVID College Readiness System and supports AVID’s mission and vision to provide a comprehensive model of success for all students, from elementary through higher education.

Based on the same learning foundation that underlies AVID Secondary, AVID Elementary is designed to be embedded into the daily instruction of all elementary classrooms, across entire grade levels, to impact school-wide structures. Like AVID Secondary, AVID Elementary Essentials focus on the four necessary areas to ensure that all students are poised for academic success: Instruction, Culture, Leadership, and Systems.

Components
AVID Elementary incorporates:

Student Success Skills – encompassing communication skills (e.g. listening, speaking, and writing), self-advocacy skills, note-taking strategies, critical thinking, and study skills.

Organizational Skills – both mental and physical; students learn to use organizational tools, as well as learn and practice skills around time management and goal-setting.

WICOR Lessons – emphasize instruction on Writing to learn, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading to learn in all content areas.

Partnerships – among students, classrooms, grade levels, schools, feeder patterns, families, and communities.

AVID Secondary
AVID Secondary brings best practices and proven methodologies to students in middle, junior high, and high schools. AVID’s goal is to prepare all students in a school for college, starting with the core elective class and expanding school-wide.

Curriculum
The AVID curriculum, based on rigorous standards, was developed by middle and high school teachers in collaboration with college professors. It is based on best teaching practices in writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading, and it is supported by state and national content standards. AVID curriculum is used in the AVID Elective and content-area classes in AVID schools to guide teachers and students, while planning strategies for success, by focusing on time management and study skills.

What is AVID School-wide?
AVID is school-wide when a strong AVID system transforms the Instruction, Systems, Leadership, and Culture of a school, ensuring college readiness for all AVID Elective students and improved academic performance for all students based on increased opportunities.

Instruction: Entire instructional staff utilizes AVID strategies, other best instructional practices, and 21st century tools to ensure college readiness for AVID Elective students and improved academic performance for all students.

Systems: Systems are in place that supports governance, curriculum and instruction, data collection and analysis, professional learning, and student and parent outreach to ensure college readiness and improved academic performance for all students.
Leadership: School leadership sets the vision and tone to promote college readiness and high expectations for all students in the school.

Culture: School’s beliefs and behaviors which reflect and demonstrate an increase in the number of students meeting college readiness requirements.

AVID – Why that name?
AVID’s founder, Mary Catherine Swanson, believed that if students were willing to work hard, she could teach them the skills needed to successfully complete the rigorous courses that would prepare them for four-year universities. She required students to take ownership of their own learning and futures, hence the acronym Advancement Via Individual Determination.

What is College Readiness?
College readiness refers to the level of preparation a student needs in order to enroll and succeed—without remediation—in a credit-bearing general education coursework at a college or university. According to research done by Dr. David T. Conley, being college-ready means students understand what is expected in a college course, can cope with the content knowledge presented, can take away from the course the key intellectual lessons, and have both the mindset and disposition necessary to enable understanding.

The AVID College Readiness System works to ensure students are college-ready by equipping them with the skills, academic behaviors, and college knowledge necessary to succeed at every level from elementary school to college. AVID helps students develop a vision for their future, gain confidence in their abilities, and take ownership of their learning.

What is the “achievement gap”?
The achievement gap refers to the difference in the educational performance of groups of students, especially groups defined by socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity and gender. The achievement gap is typically discussed in the context of standardized test scores, grade point average, dropout rates, and/or college enrollment and completion rates. AVID is closing the achievement gap, with AVID students consistently outperforming their peers.

College
In order to attend prestigious University of California schools and California State Universities, a rigorous set of courses called the “a-g” requirements need to be successfully completed. The vast majority of AVID’s California students complete these courses, preparing them for world-class public higher education.