



AVID and the Common Core State Standards

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is a nonprofit organization that provides educators with proven, real-world strategies and materials to accelerate students' learning in elementary, secondary, and higher education. Because AVID has always aligned itself with state educational standards, schools in nearly every state in the country now have AVID systems in place, and policymakers and administrators view the implementation of AVID as an important strategy for closing the achievement gap and opening up the possibility of college attendance for all students. Just as the Common Core State Standards focus on helping students refine their Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language skills across the curriculum while at the same time challenging students as they move from one grade level to the next, so too does AVID with its focus on Writing to learn, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading to learn (WICOR).

Both AVID and the Common Core State Standards address rigor in the classroom. The AVID strategies and materials are meant to help students master one step in the educational process before moving on to the next. Students in AVID Elective classes readily recognize rigorous assignments, and through careful leadership and guidance provided by their teachers and tutors, AVID students prepare themselves for the educational challenges they face as they proceed from one class to the next and from one grade level to the next. The Common Core State Standards appear to reflect the path that AVID students and educators have been following for more than three decades, a path that spirals upward, establishing a solid foundation of literacy skills in one grade before ratcheting up the rigor in the next.

The word “curriculum” in the AVID world refers to the many texts or manuals written to provide effective strategies and present equally valuable lessons that help students as they navigate their way through reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking activities across the content areas. The Common Core State Standards clearly delineate all that students must be able to achieve, and the AVID curriculum materials provide the support necessary to bring student achievement to fruition.

The instruction that AVID teachers provide for their students is inquiry-based, focusing on refining higher-level thinking skills, thus empowering students with the ability to recognize that the process to enlightenment is as important as the knowledge itself. The AVID system has always been inquiry-based, and it supports the tenets that are woven throughout the Common Core State Standards; AVID strives to get students to think critically as they solve problems and rise to educational challenges, and the Common Core State Standards help educators recognize which goals and achievements students should master.

The Common Core State Standards map out a “common” set of educational goals and objectives for all students across the nation, just as the AVID system is consistent across the nation. Since AVID does align with what the Common Core State Standards put forth and is uniformly implemented in all AVID schools, it is quite apparent that AVID support is effective, reliable, and universal across all content areas and across all grade levels, K–12. The Common Core State Standards lay down a path for students to follow, and AVID supports students as they follow that path to educational success.