

Date

Dear (district partner):

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provides \$650 million via competitive grants through the Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund which is allocated for school districts (LEAs) that partner with proven non-profit educational organizations such as AVID. To win an Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund grant, school districts and their non-profit partners must demonstrate a model approach that has:

- Significantly closed the achievement gap between groups of students.
- Exceeded the state's annual measurable objectives for two or more years or have demonstrated success in significantly improving academic achievement for all groups of students.
- Made significant improvement in other areas such as graduation rates or increased recruitment and placement of high-quality teachers and school leaders, as demonstrated with meaningful data.

The AVID system already in place within your district meets all these criteria and we welcome the opportunity to partner with you and apply for funding to support your schools and students. AVID offers:

- A 30 year record of closing the achievement gap and significantly improving academic achievement for all students
- A proven data system to measure and document outcomes
- An extensive teacher and student support system – including intensive professional development for teachers, counselors and administrators
- A system of schoolwide reform that often results in the transformation of the academic, college-going culture of a school
- A comprehensive system that once implemented can be sustained without significant ongoing expenditures.

Three documents with additional information are attached:

- a. A detailed account of the connection between AVID and the Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund
- b. A summary PowerPoint document entitled "Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund" that outlines the criteria and grant requirements
- c. Innovation Grants, Proposed Priorities - a detailed notice from the Department of Education outlining the proposed priorities, requirements, definition and selection criteria

The Department of Education will release the RFP for Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund grants within the next few weeks and AVID Center would be delighted to partner with your district to apply for these funds. To begin this process, please contact your AVID Center office at: