



What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) Reviewers Endorse Study Findings: AVID Students Graduate High School and Enroll in College at Significantly Higher Rates

States and districts requiring confirmation of Tier 2 evidence of effectiveness by the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) for the use of ESSA funding can now add **AVID** to their list of eligible support providers!

A study, titled *AVID Participation in High School and Post-Secondary Success: An Evaluation and Cost Analysis* (Todhunter-Reid et al., 2020), had its findings confirmed by WWC reviewers and was rated as a Tier 2 study with statistically significant positive effects providing moderate evidence of effectiveness (see explanation below).

Study Overview

- **Key Findings**
 - AVID students graduated high school at a significantly higher rate than matched non-AVID students.
 - AVID students enrolled in college at a significantly higher rate than matched non-AVID students the fall semester following high school graduation.
- **Setting and Sample**
 - The study was conducted with students in grades 9–12 in public high schools in Palm Beach County, Florida.
 - The sample included a total of 10,397 students: 1,157 students who enrolled in AVID for at least 1 year and 9,240 matched comparison students.
 - Most students in the study sample were Black (55%) or Hispanic (29%), eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (79%), and female (51%).

What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) Determination

- **The WWC gave both reported findings their highest rating of: Statistically Significant Positive Effects**
 - *Note: The WWC characterizes findings in a study using the following categories:*
 - *Statistically significant positive effects*
 - *Substantively important positive effects*
 - *Indeterminate effects*
 - *Substantively important negative effects*
 - *Statistically significant negative effects*
- **The WWC rated this study as providing: Tier 2 – Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness**
 - *Note: The WWC ranks studies using the following tiered system of effectiveness:*
 - *Tier 1 – Strong Evidence (e.g., Randomized Control Trial RCT with significant results)*
 - *Tier 2 – Moderate Evidence (e.g., Quasi-Experimental Design, matched subjects, with significant results)*
 - *Tier 3 – Promising Evidence (e.g., Correlational Study with statistical controls for bias)*
 - *Tier 4 – Demonstrates a Rationale (e.g., Well-defined logic, with research evaluation in progress)*

Todhunter-Reid, A., Burke, A., Houchens, P., & Howard, M. (2020). AVID participation in high school and post-secondary success: An evaluation and cost analysis. *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, 13(4), 679-701.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/19345747.2020.1772421>