What Does College and Career Readiness Mean?

No matter what postsecondary path high school graduates choose, students must develop certain essential skills to design their own futures: critical thinking, collaboration, reading, writing, and relationship building. The development of these skills is rooted in belief in self. If students believe they are capable, there is a foundational confidence to learn and a resiliency to overcome setbacks.

When educators believe in students, learning and confidence are activated. With teacher support for developing a growth mindset and the academic skills they need for future success, students grow to see their capabilities and find their own way.

What Students Need

AVID students receive intentional support and mentoring in three major areas that help them become confident individuals who can successfully navigate life and career:

1. **Rigorous Academic Preparedness** — Students have the academic skills and can successfully complete rigorous college and career preparatory curriculum and experiences.

2. **Opportunity Knowledge** — Students research opportunities, set goals, make choices that support their long-term aspirations, and successfully navigate transitions to the next level.

3. **Student Agency** — Students believe in and activate their own potential, build relationships, persist through obstacles, and exercise their academic, social, emotional, and professional knowledge and skills.

By placing students in a learning setting that engages them in rigor with support, opportunities to explore their future pathways, and deliberate instruction in self-management and leadership, students develop the agency and skills that will serve them for life. With AVID, students excel regardless of their circumstances, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or English proficiency.

What Educators Need to Do

Teachers and other adults on a school campus play an important role in student success. AVID supports educators and transforms the learning environment into one where students are challenged, supported, and provided the tools needed to succeed. To do this, educators must:

- **Insist on Rigor** — Educators across the school provide learning experiences where every student is challenged, engaged, and develops a greater ownership in their learning through increasingly complex levels of understanding.

- **Break Down Barriers** — Educators are champions for equity who actively seek out and eliminate educational barriers that would limit or restrict students’ access to meaningful and challenging learning opportunities.

- **Align the Work** — Educators increasingly align their practices and beliefs to the common purpose of preparing all students for college and career readiness as well as students’ long-term success in college, career, and life.

- **Advocate for Students** — Educators consistently advocate for equity and access to challenging coursework for all and help students find their voice and achieve their aspirations through creating strong relationships and providing appropriate guidance.

Ensure Student Success

Over four decades, we have seen that when school leaders focus on rigorous instruction, insist on access and equity for all students, align work to a common vision, and believe in students’ potential, student outcomes improve. In addition to graduating more college-bound and career-ready students, schools are equipping their students with the social and emotional faculties they need for life and career success.

Your Program Manager will help your school leaders discover and apply AVID tools and resources to develop your AVID College and Career Readiness System.