



## **AVID Excel 4/4/24 Webinar - FAQ**

### ***Transforming the Path to Success for Long-Term English Language Learners***

#### **What is the difference between the AVID Excel Elective and the AVID Elective?**

AVID Excel is parallel to the AVID program on the middle school campus. The AVID Excel students are on the same path to high school AVID and college. They learn similar skills, including critical reading, note-taking, and leadership; however, language acquisition and development are at the forefront of AVID Excel. The AVID Excel courses focus on six major domains: reading, writing, oral language, academic vocabulary, study skills, and self-determination and leadership.

AVID Excel students begin the summer before 6th or 7th grade with the AVID Excel Summer Bridge, a two-week experience. Then, they enter the yearlong AVID Excel Elective, followed by the subsequent year's AVID Excel Summer Bridge and yearlong Elective. AVID Excel students continue with the AVID Elective in high school.

#### **What is the AVID Excel Student Profile?**

- AVID Excel students should be in US schools for four or more years (before recruitment).
- They are scoring in the upper English proficiency levels (upper Emerging, Bridging, or even recently reclassified on monitoring).
- AVID Excel students score below proficient on the ELA state standards test (basic level).
- They are interested in going to college and show a desire to achieve.
- AVID Excel students are placed in integrated ELA classes.

#### **What does recruitment look like for AVID Excel compared to the AVID class in general?**

The AVID Excel Elective and the AVID Elective are parallel offerings based on the AVID Essential Skills and AVID Elective Standards. Like the AVID Elective, it is integrated into certification.

#### **What percentage of students who are in the AVID Excel program become RFEP/redesignated?**

The primary goal of AVID Excel is for scholars to successfully transition to high school AVID, college proprietary coursework, and then to college. Though redesignation isn't the primary goal of AVID Excel, many Excel schools find that AVID Excel scholars redesignate at a much faster rate than their non-Excel peers. Since reclassification criteria differ from state to state and district to district, national AVID Excel RFEP data is unavailable. Please reach out to [excel@avid.org](mailto:excel@avid.org) to connect with other AVID Excel districts in your area.

### **Can a district use Excel as its designated ELD curriculum?**

Some districts use AVID Excel as the designated ELD for the students who are accepted, and some schools create a master schedule where students participate in Excel and have an additional period of designated ELD in addition to their integrated ELA class. Using Excel as the designated ELD for students who are selected for the AVID Excel Elective is a district-based decision and will need to comply with state ELD requirements.

### **At our school, we have a diverse ELL program supporting new arrivals as well as emerging and expanding multilingual learners. What is the difference between AVID Excel and AVID Emerge, and which would be the best fit for our population? Can you implement both?**

AVID Excel and AVID Emerge are two programs designed to support multilingual learners. While both programs aim to accelerate language proficiency, their approach and target audience differ. AVID Excel is a middle-school elective that provides support and acceleration for targeted experienced multilingual students at the intermediate and advanced proficiency levels. AVID Elective Standards and ELD Standards are the basis for the course.

AVID Emerge is a supplementary resource to enhance instruction and support in designated language acquisition classes across grades 6–12. It comprises a digital toolkit that includes instructional resources tailored to different proficiency levels, offering flexibility to complement existing programming or as a foundational element for a curated curriculum. AVID Emerge is an option for multilingual learners not in the AVID Excel Elective who need the support of AVID routines and strategies to accelerate language proficiency.

To learn more, explore AVID's Advancing Multilingual Learners suite here:

<https://explore.avid.org/advancing-multilingual-learners/>

### **Can we have some examples of what this rigorous curriculum looks like?**

The [AVID Excel curriculum preview](#) includes the content and skills covered at each grade level, the table of contents for our two curriculum guides, and a lesson sample.

### **What is one of the greatest growths you see AVID Excel students make?**

During the webinar, Principal Juan Alvarez said: Well, I think for me personally, just something as simple as being able to communicate effectively. A lot of times our students feel truncated, or sometimes they won't say anything at all because they don't have the confidence to communicate what it is that they need. We give them a safe space to be able to communicate and also fall back on the Excel strategies that we've incorporated into our instruction schoolwide. We give our students the skills and confidence to facilitate getting their needs met, while also giving them the safe space to make errors.

Lisa Woelfer, the AVID Excel teacher, added: It's important for Excel scholars to understand the difference between formal and informal language, and when to utilize each. How do you confront a friend versus a teacher, if you're discussing an issue with a grade or not having

homework? We empower them with that skill and give them a space to practice that language. This reinforces the language piece and the confidence piece. It's a family in our class, and as students build confidence, that starts to billow out all over into their other classes. And now, I see them self-regulate and self-advocate beyond the walls of my classroom.