



Communications Office
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High Expectations and Accountability for All

Expansion of AP and AVID programs promote college opportunities for Twin Rivers students

From Biology to Statistics, Twin Rivers schools offer 16 Advanced Placement (AP) courses that offer students the opportunity to receive early college credits while still in high school. These courses also prepare students for the academic rigor expected at the college level and provide college-readiness skills.

Students are responding to the variety of AP course offerings. Passage rates for AP coursework in Twin Rivers are increasing at a rate that surpasses the state and national average. Last year's passage rate was up 38 percent compared to the previous year. Students were better prepared for the AP tests, and district-wide implementation of AP test fee waivers enabled more students to fully benefit from AP course offerings.

The number of Twin Rivers students participating in AP coursework is on the rise. For the first time ever the four high school's AP teachers came together for professional development and dialogue about the goals of AP coursework and expectations for student outcomes.

"We are instilling an expectation so that if a child chooses to go to college they will be ready," said Anna Trunnell, Twin Rivers Director of Curriculum and Instruction for secondary schools.

In addition to college preparation and an opportunity to earn college credit, expanding the AP program in Twin Rivers has an added benefit – more students are meeting A-G graduation requirements. (A-G requirements are certain course requirements for freshmen entering the UC and CSU systems.) Last year the number of Twin Rivers students meeting A-G requirements was up 5.5 percent and it looks like the district is on track to replicate those results again this year.

While some students are benefiting from the AP coursework offered in 11th and 12th grades at Twin Rivers, others are experiencing success through the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program.

The AVID program is designed to help disadvantaged Jr. High and High School students prepare for and succeed in colleges and universities by teaching them how to study, read for content, take notes, and manage time. In addition to curriculum geared towards writing, college, and careers, students participate in collaborative study groups – bringing them to a higher level of understanding in their targeted subject areas.

"AVID serves as an encouragement for college," said Program Administrator Dr. Gary Bly. "Students enrolled in AVID are more likely to attend four-year college programs and be successful."

The number of students enrolled in an AVID elective course has nearly doubled since Twin Rivers became a unified district less than two years ago. The results are impressive - Twin Rivers AVID students averaged a 23% higher “proficient and above” percentage than the district student average.

The two programs (AP and AVID) complement one another by providing an umbrella over all secondary students. Twin Rivers supports multiple pathways for student success, providing a variety of opportunities to prepare for college and career success.

“It’s very exciting for us to see the positive growth and improvement in the programs and opportunities for our students,” said Superintendent Frank Porter. “Even during difficult budgetary and transitional challenges, our teachers and staff have kept the focus on students and continue to raise the bar. It’s fantastic.”

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