



*Final Validation Visit Report
Haltom High School
April 7, 2015*

Principal: Clarence Simmons
AVID Coordinator/s: Pamela Wright

Summary of Findings:

Haltom High School is truly AVID Schoolwide. The school serves as a model AVID school for Birdville ISD. Their ongoing commitment to professional learning for all staff has resulted in 26% of their faculty being trained through Summer Institute and/or Path training. We encourage the school and district to continue to provide multiple opportunities for professional learning for additional staff members in order to further the excellent work resulting in a system of college readiness for all students at Haltom High School. As one student panelist stated, “every student here is in AVID.”

The visiting team observed many examples of the use of WICOR strategies in the classrooms and in the hallways. It is clear that teachers and departments are sharing best practices and that the administration is inspecting what they expect instructionally.

We appreciated the welcoming tone of all students and staff at the school. It is clear that students are valued and supported throughout the school.

Commendations:

- The visiting team was made aware that there will be a change in principal at Haltom High School. Due to the sustainability, stability, commitment and dedication to the AVID College Readiness System demonstrated schoolwide, there is no concern that the system will continue to grow and flourish. The Site Team is representative of the entire campus and includes students, tutors and parents. It is highly proactive in all areas, including seeking ways to continue to promote increasing access for all students to Advanced Academic opportunities. The team noted that additional sections of rigorous courses are being opened in order to meet the need and demand for increased opportunities.
- The implementation of the schoolwide “Buff Binder” system is intentional across the campus with the goal to build organizational skills in all students. We consistently saw Cornell Notes adapted for various content classes in binders we viewed. The team encourages you continue to look for opportunities to reduce the variability of expectations for binder organization across grade levels and content areas.

- There has been an intentional focus on the use of the Marking the Text strategy. The team saw repeated evidence in student binders.

Recommendations:

1. Ensure that all AVID Elective teachers have the most recent Tutorology training.
2. Continue to refine the Tutorial process, focusing on all roles and responsibilities. Specifically continue to work on increasing student-led inquiry and decreasing adult assistance to guide the tutorial.
3. Continue to move note-taking schoolwide using Focused Note-Taking. The next step to refine the CORNELL WAY schoolwide is to process notes above and beyond highlighting. For example, work on strategies such as evidence of clarifying, reviewing and revising notes through intentional repetition.

Final Finding:

Based on today's visit, as well as on the certification and application process, we are pleased to welcome Haltom High School as an AVID National Demonstration School. Application for Revalidation will be in Fall 2018. This term of validation is contingent upon timely annual completion of data collection, all 11 Essentials at Level 2 or above, all indicators in Essential 8 are rated Level 2 or above, and the school meets AVID's schoolwide metrics.

Team Members

Judy Walker – Team Lead
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