

AVID Weekly Subscriptions/Funding Suggestions

I. AVID Weekly Overview

- A. A subscription-based, Internet-delivered tool designed to help teach critical reading in AVID (and other) classrooms at the high school and middle school levels.
 1. Each month, ten current articles are made available from the following news services: Washington Post/Bloomberg News and McClatchy-Tribune. The articles are chosen by AVID curriculum personnel with critical reading strategies in mind. All articles (and lessons) are archived for use throughout the school year.
 2. Articles are accompanied each month by two lessons, each available in both a summary length and full length instructional model based on two of that month's articles. Instructional samples of each critical reading strategy are also available for monthly download.
 3. Finally, a grid is provided each month which gives the user a quick review of the article names, level of difficulty and content area of each article, and a list of which critical reading strategies are best applied to each article.
- B. AVID Weekly is designed as a supplemental piece that has proven to be an important tool in many AVID schools around the nation and used by teachers across various content areas.

II. Funding Suggestions

- A. Teachers should speak to school site council members before the team makes decisions about the budget for the next school year.
- B. February-March may be a good time to seek funds within your school that were budgeted but went unused in the 2009-10 school year. AVID Center will be happy to apply these funds to a school subscription for the 2010-11 school year.
- C. For budgeting of funds for the 2010-11 school year, June and July are when new budgets are generally sent down from the state. Teachers should make appointments to meet with site coordinators and administrators around this time.
- D. Site Funds
 1. Site funds generally pay for content area resources and other necessities such as photocopies, etc.
 - Site funds include Department Chair budgets – Department Chairs are a

potential place to approach for funding if you can convince them that you will use the AVID Weekly articles and lessons as core materials in your subject areas. Generally, AVID Weekly articles compliment content in subjects like social studies/history, English, and even science.

E. Categorical Funds

1. This is probably the best place to seek funds for a supplemental piece such as AVID Weekly. Schools will vary on what may apply, but different types of Categorical Funds within a school may include the following.
 - a. Title 1 Funds – generally spent on supplies, tutors, materials, etc. They cannot be used to pay for something that are considered a standard resource in the classroom. Title 1 Coordinators are usually looking for how the resource extends or deepens the core materials that are currently in place. AVID Weekly fits this criteria nicely. Please note that Title 1 funds are generally budgeted for in the February/March time frame for the following school year.
 - b. GATE Funds – generally used for supplies, materials, and resources that enrich students’ learning in the GATE program
 - c. School AVID Funds – generally may be used for supplies, tutors, field trips, materials, and other AVID related resources (like AVID Weekly).
 - d. Various Grant Funding:
 - i. Quality Investment Education Act (QIEA) Funds (in California)
 - ii. School Assistance and Intervention Team (SAIT) Funds (in California)
 - iii. Local Community-Oriented Foundations that are supportive of efforts to better prepare children in your school to get the opportunity to both attend and succeed in college.
- F. Local Parent Teacher Associations (PTA’s), Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO’s), and Parent-Teacher-Student Associations (PTSA’s)

Parent support groups, such as PTAs, regularly support their local schools through fundraising efforts that fill funding gaps in areas of special need for their school. These organizations typically want to make smaller budget donations that support teachers and instruction to help all or most students. The benefits and cost of an AVID Weekly subscription can help meet their goals.

The use of AVID Weekly helps develop the very important skill of critical reading, which many parents strongly support because of its important correlation to success in college and beyond. Samples of articles can be downloaded from the AVID Weekly website (www.avidweekly.org) to show parents how current newspaper articles are successfully used to teach this important skill; a demonstration which should strongly impact parents of all backgrounds.

Check with your school principal to get connected to the head of your local organization.

III. Samples and further information

- A. For AVID Weekly samples or other information on AVID Weekly to help your school's consideration of a subscription, please email us at avidweekly@avidcenter.org.