



Stefan Bean, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

OCDE AVID UPDATE



[AVID WEBSITE](#)

[AVID SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

OC Path Trainings

3 trainings available - Click Dates to Register

Choose from a variety of Communities of Practice

\$685/person until 4 weeks prior to training

\$715/person less than 4 weeks prior to training

Capistrano USD

October 2-3, 2025

- Site Administrators 1: Secondary
- AVID Elective Level 2: Tutorials and Refining Implementation
- Math Discourse: Elementary and Secondary
- Cultivating Writing Schoolwide

Placentia-Yorba Linda USD

October 29-30, 2025

- AVID Elementary Implementation: 3-6
- AVID Elective Level 1: Implementing the Foundations of Instruction
- Transforming Literacy Through Content Reading-Secondary
- AVID Emerge Secondary: Elevating Multilingual Learner Instruction in Grades 6-12 **Additional Fee for this CoP**

Placentia-Yorba Linda USD

January 28-29, 2026

- AVID Elementary Implementation: PreK-2
- AVID Elective Level 2: Tutorials and Refining Implementation
- Transforming Literacy Through Content Reading-Elementary
- Academic Language and Literacy: Asset-Based Instruction for All Classrooms



EVENTS

2025-26 - OC AVID PL CALENDAR

SEP. 19 - #WHYAPPLY DAY

OCT. 2-3 - AVID PATH TRAINING

OCT. 29-30 - AVID PATH TRAINING

**DEC. 3 - SITE TEAM WORKSHOP
INFO COMING SOON**

JAN. 28-29 - AVID PATH TRAINING

OCDE AVID Changes

The only constant is change, and this year brings changes at the AVID team.

- Shelby Rommelfanger will be stepping away from AVID to focus on her work in the career education unit.
- Joanna Robold is taking on a new supervisory role here at OCDE and will no longer support AVID directly
- Nicole Overholtzer will now support AVID at OCDE, so look for emails from her

#WhyApply Day

Friday, September 19, 2025

We are excited to participate in the annual #WhyApply Day celebration, led by the American College Application Campaign! **Learn more** about how to participate in this year's celebration.

Write to Joy: K-12 Writing Conference

Saturday, October 11, 2025

8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Looking for high-quality professional learning in writing instruction? This one-day event is packed with hands-on workshops, collaborative learning, and strategies that align with state standards and MTSS. With sessions tailored for elementary, secondary, and K-12 educators, topics range from AI in writing and EduProtocols® to writing through play, academic writing for LTELs, genre writing, and strategies for exceptional learners—there's something for everyone passionate about nurturing student writers! For more information see: [flyer](#), [conference website](#), [registration](#)

HIGH SCHOOL

College Application Workshop

September 9, 2025

8:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Grade 9-12
Teachers
Register Now!**

This workshop is open to AVID 9-12 teachers and encourages team attendance. It is a collaboration between AVID Center, OCDE, UC Irvine and UC Riverside. The morning will include discussion around planning and preparing students for being competitive college applicants. In the afternoon, Denise will discuss major changes to the senior scholarship and representatives from UC Irvine and UC Riverside will join us to discuss applications beyond the PIQs, including extra curriculars and choosing a major. They will bring insights from admissions as well as tips to help your students be the most competitive candidates, which includes early planning. For more information: [flyer](#), [registration](#)

BIG CHANGES COMING

AVID Senior Scholarship

The AVID Senior Scholarship is being revamped this year with a new portal and new processes. As you know, we partner with the Orange County Community Foundation with most of the scholarships. They are moving portals which changes the application this year. Be sure to use the application template with your students, as there are many changes to questions as well as writing prompts. More details to come soon. Please reach out to Denise with questions.

AVID 9th Grade Leadership Conference

February 6 and 13, 2026

Interest Registration October 15-22, 2025

The AVID 9th Grade Leadership Conference is back. We will be holding two events in February 2026 at Pomona College in Claremont. The number of students and sites will be limited.

The dates of the conference are February 6 and February 13, 2026. Schools must register their interest in attending at Pomona College in Claremont. The number of students and sites will be limited. More information next month.



HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS & DEADLINES

SEPT. 9 – COLLEGE APPLICATION WORKSHOP

**OCT. 15 – 9TH GRADE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
INTEREST OPENS**

**NOV. 17 – SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP ONLINE
APPLICATION OPENS**

**DEC. 15 – SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION DUE (1:00 PM)**

**DEC. 18 – LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION
DEADLINE**

FEB. 6 – 9TH GRADE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

FEB. 13 – 9TH GRADE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

**APR. 15 – SENIOR STANDOUT RECOGNITION &
SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION**

ACT College and Career Readiness Workshops

Free, annual, half-day events for K-12 educators offer a powerful start to your school year, with helpful tips, engaging activities, and resources to help your students maximize the effects of their college and career journeys. In-person and webinars available. Click [here](#) for information and registration.

OCDE AVID CONTACT INFORMATION

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FINANCIAL AID

THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

Finding financial aid can seem overwhelming when you're trying to get ready for college or career school. The U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid is here to help you get the money you need to pay for your education.

PREPARATION

Scholarships and state aid can help cover the cost of college or career school, but you may find yourself in need of federal assistance.

Many states have college funding programs. Ask a guidance counselor or your college financial aid office for more information.

It's time to apply for financial aid.

FAFSA®

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is the only way to apply for federal student aid. The schools you list on your application will use FAFSA information to evaluate your financial need and determine how much federal aid you are eligible to receive. Many states and colleges also use information from your FAFSA to provide their own financial aid.

Complete the FAFSA online at fafsa.gov. Make sure to fill out and submit the FAFSA each year you are in college.

After you submit your FAFSA, you'll receive your Student Aid Report (SAR). Your SAR summarizes the information in your FAFSA. Review it and make corrections if needed.

Your FAFSA helps your school determine the types of federal student aid you are eligible to receive.

TYPES OF FEDERAL STUDENT AID

As the largest provider of financial aid, the U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid provides grants, loans, and work-study funds.

GRANTS
Grants are free money that do not have to be repaid.

LOANS
Student loans are real loans (like a car or home loan) that need to be repaid with interest.

WORK-STUDY
A work-study job gives you the opportunity to earn money to help pay your educational expenses.

AWARD

Your award letter explains the combination of federal grants, loans, and work-study a college is offering you. The offer might also contain state and institutional aid. If you receive award letters from multiple colleges or career schools, you should compare them and decide which school works best for you.

COLLEGE

Every year, millions of new students attend college or career school for the first time. Your college or career school has a financial aid office to help guide you along the way.

BEYOND EDUCATION

WORKFORCE

When you take the time to plan for your education and let Federal Student Aid help you along the way, you'll be setting the foundation for a bright future and success in the workforce.

REPAYMENT

Once you leave school, you will need to repay your student loans. Contact your loan servicer to discuss your repayment options.

LOAN
SERVICES

Changes in FAFSA

FAFSA Opens October 1, 2025

The 2026-27 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) will open October 1, 2025 with a few changes this year. The Department of Education announced a simplified process for inviting parents or spouses to access and contribute to the form. A contributor will be able to access a student's form by entering the student's email address rather than being required to create a StudentAid.gov account or input their personal information.

FAFSA vs CADAA— Which is the right application for me?

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The FAFSA is an application operated by the U.S. Department of Education and the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) that allows students to qualify for federal, state, and institutional financial aid.

You are eligible to complete the FAFSA if you:

- Are a US Citizen
- Are a Permanent Resident ("Green Card" holder)
- Have a T-Visa
- Are an Eligible Non-citizen*

California Dream Act Application (CADAA)

The CADAA is California's state financial aid application operated by CSAC that allows undocumented and other eligible students to qualify for state and institutional financial aid.

You are eligible to complete the CADAA if you:

- Are Undocumented
- Have a U-Visa or Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- Meet the CA non-resident exemption requirements
- New: Students from Mixed-Status Families

2026 Annual Statewide Financial Aid Workshops

With the FAFSA changes and the graduation requirement for seniors to complete it, you will want to attend a FAFSA workshop to hear about the changes as soon as possible. The California Student Aid Commission and the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators are hosting the *2026 Annual Statewide Financial Aid Workshops*. These free workshops will assist in providing information and updates on state-funded financial aid programs and provide a comprehensive overview of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For information visit: <https://www.csac.ca.gov/annual-statewide-financial-aid-workshops>