

OCDE AVID UPDATE

[AVID WEBSITE](#)

[AVID SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

OC Path Trainings 3 trainings available

Choose from a variety of Communities of Practice

- \$699/person until 4 weeks prior to training
- \$730/person less than 4 weeks prior to training

Placentia-Yorba Linda USD

September 22-23, 2026 [Flyer/Registration](#)

- AVID Elementary Implementation: PreK-2
- Math

Placentia-Yorba Linda USD

October 20-21, 2026 [Flyer/Registration](#)

- English Language Arts
- History/Social Science

Placentia-Yorba Linda USD

January 26-27, 2027 [Flyer/Registration](#)

- AVID Elementary Implementation: 3-6
- Science

EVENTS



2026-27 - OC AVID PL CALENDAR

**SEP. 18 – #WHYAPPLY DAY &
AVID DAY**

SEP. 22-23 – AVID PATH TRAINING

OCT. 14 – TIER 1 WORKSHOP

OCT. 20-21 – AVID PATH TRAINING

JAN 12 – SITE TEAM WORKSHOP

JAN. 26-27 – AVID PATH TRAINING

New OCDE AVID Website Coming September 1

OCDE has a new website and a new look. The new website will make it easier to find information. Be on the lookout next month for the new site.

AVID Day September 18, 2026

We're celebrating all things AVID on Friday, September 18, a moment to lift up the purpose and impact we're building together. Share your #MyAVIDWhy and the stories that show how AVID is shaping growth, opportunity, and possibility across our community.

Get inspired with the [AVID Day 2026 Celebration Toolkit!](#)

OC AVID Showcases Various Dates

AVID Showcases provide an in-person opportunity for educators to see an AVID implementation, share best practices, and learn more about AVID hands-on. The Showcase experience includes classroom observations and a chance to speak with experienced AVID teachers, administrators, and students. Visit <https://www.avid.org/showcases> for additional information and registration. (Please note that not all showcases are in the registration system yet.)

Below are showcases hosted in Orange County:

- Nov. 5 - McFadden Institute of Technology (SAUSD)
- March 10 - Ruby Drive ES (PYLUSD)
- April 29 - Schroeder College and Career Readiness Academy (WSD)

HIGH SCHOOL

UC/CSU Application Workshop

September 10, 2026 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

AVID Senior Teachers and District Directors

- Join UC staff for an enhanced application workshop designed to support AVID counselors and Future Ready Advisors in guiding students through the UC application process. The session will provide practical insights, strategies, and resources to help counselors better support students as they prepare and submit their applications.
- CSU Outreach representatives will share important admissions updates, including information about CSU Direct Admission, along with A-G changes and an upcoming resource regarding dual credit.
- Register at <https://ocde.k12oms.org/1235-284740>

2026 AVID Scholars

See the 2026 AVID Scholars awarded through the Orange County Community Foundation [here](#).

AVID Senior Scholarship

Due December 10, 2026

The AVID Senior Scholarship portal will open October 1, 2026. Be sure to use the application template with your students. The template and other details will be available next month. Please reach out to Denise with questions.

AVID 9th Grade Leadership Conference

February 5 and 19, 2027

The AVID 9th Grade Leadership Conference is back. We will be holding two events in February 2027 at Pomona College in Claremont. The number of students and sites will be limited. Flyer and details to come next month. Registration will be open October 14-21, 2026. Schools will be notified in November of acceptance.

#WhyApply Day

September 18, 2026

We are excited to participate in the annual #WhyApply Day celebration, led by our friends at the American College Application Campaign! It's important to pause and remind students of opportunities a college education brings, as well as to remind students that they are not alone in the process.

Gear up and check out the downloadable resources to help promote and inspire your own celebration with your students. [Learn more](#) about how to participate in this year's celebration on Friday, September 18.



HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS & DEADLINES

SEPT. 10 – UC/CSU WORKSHOP

**OCT. 1 – SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP ONLINE
APPLICATION OPENS**

**OCT. 14 – 9TH GRADE LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE INTEREST OPENS**

**DEC. 10 – SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION DUE (1:00 PM)**

**TBD – LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION
DEADLINE**

FEB. 5 – 9TH GRADE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

FEB. 19 – 9TH GRADE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

**APR. 28 – 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.

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

Annual Statewide Financial Aid Workshops - **FREE** Various Dates

The Annual Statewide Financial Aid Workshops are free workshops, offered both in-person and virtually, to provide high school counselors and staff, student advocates, student outreach coordinators, community education partners, Dreamer resource staff, and foster youth advocates the opportunity to attend a half-day training to obtain relevant financial aid information they can use to support their students apply for and receive financial aid for college. To register, visit <https://csac.ca.gov/asfaw>.

Training Topics include:

- Updates to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA)
- Information and updates to:
 - Cal Grant Programs
 - Middle Class Scholarship
 - Programs for Foster Youth
 - CA Dream Act Service Incentive Grant

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

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

California Dream Act Application (CADAA)

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.

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 FAFSA if you:

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

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



**College Affordability Summit Unlocking the California Dream:
Intentional Change & Focused Investments - FREE
October 6, 2026 (Virtual)**

The 7th Annual California College Affordability Summit will take place virtually on Tuesday, October 6, 2026. This event brings together K-12 educators, high school counselors, college financial aid administrators, student advocates, and policy leaders to share updates, resources, and tools for the 2027-28 application cycle. For registration and information, visit <https://www.csac.ca.gov/summit>.

Multifactor Authentication for Webgrants

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) announces the implementation of multifactor authentication (MFA) within WebGrants. This update is a mandatory requirement to enhance the security of state information assets and protect user data.

New MFA Process MFA is now enabled for all WebGrants users with the following steps:

- **Verification:** Upon logging in, you will be prompted to enter a one-time passcode.
- **Delivery:** This passcode will be sent automatically to the email address associated with your WebGrants account.
- **Completion:** Enter the passcode on the login screen to gain access. This verification step will be required every time you log into WebGrants.

CA FACT: California Financial Aid Certification Training Launches: August 2026

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) is pleased to announce the launch of the California Financial Aid Certification Training – CA FACT, a collaborative effort between CSAC and the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA). In alignment with CSAC's Student Success Blueprint Goal 1 Equitable Access, advance equitable access to financial aid, CSAC is partnering with CASFAA to address regional financial literacy gaps and highlight promising practices led by college and university financial aid professionals. CA FACT is designed to provide standardized professional development for educators, counselors, community partners, and financial aid staff across California. Visit <https://www.csac.ca.gov/ca-fact> for more information.

California Implementation of the Federal Workforce Pell Grant and State Aid Alignment

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) announces Senate Bill 135 and Assembly Bill 135 were signed into law, designating the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to act on behalf of the Governor as the administering authority for the Workforce Pell Grant Program (WFP) in California. The WFP program represents a significant opportunity for multiple Californians including, working adults, displaced workers, and those seeking rapid workforce or reskilling opportunities.

To read more, visit <https://www.csac.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-08/eom-2026-17.pdf>.

opportunities

INSPIRED TEACHER GRANT PROGRAM

Opens Soon - Due in October

The 2026-27 Inspired Teacher Grants Program presents an opportunity for Orange County public and charter school teachers to seek funding for projects, field trips, tools, materials or ideas that will present an enrichment opportunity for their students and enhance the educational experience of their classroom, department, or school. Awards range from \$1,000 - \$10,000 depending on the type and level of the project. Visit <https://www.oc-cf.org/grants/available-grants/> for details about grants. Deadline is usually in October.

OC Civics Learning Institute

October 28, 2026

Explore the difference between community service and authentic civic learning while making cross-curricular connections aligned with the California History Social Science Framework. Discover Civic Learning Outcomes for each grade band, classroom strategies, and pathways toward the State Seal of Civic Engagement. Leave with a Civic Action Project plan ready to bring civic learning to life. [Flyer](#) and [Registration k-5 , 6-12](#)

OC Academic Decathlon

Academic Decathlon is uniquely designed to challenge high school students of all achievement levels to demonstrate a mastery of higher-order thinking skills, written aptitude, and communication skills in a variety of rigorous academic events. In addition, the program fosters leadership, integrity, perseverance, team building, and collaboration. Join us on September 9, 2026, from 4:00-5:30 p.m. for our virtual New Coach Orientation. The link to register for the orientation is on the [meeting flyer](#). For more information, please visit our [website](#) or contact Kristin Rigby, Coordinator, Academic Events at ocad@ocde.us.

Teacher's Law School

October 6, 2026

Join us for in-depth content sessions as we visit the Orange County Superior Court. This year's content will feature presentations on Civics in Action. Judges from the Orange County courts will share content, along with guest speaker, Joshua Block, author of Teaching for a Living. [Flyer](#) and [Registration](#)

Academic Pentathlon

The Orange County Academic Pentathlon is uniquely designed to engage sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students of all achievement levels in a variety of rigorous academic events. Under the guidance of an adult coach, collaborative teams of students prepare for competition in the subject areas of math, science, fine arts, literature, and social science; and analyze a novel through a written essay. Join us on September 30, 2026, for our virtual New Coach Orientation from 4:00-5:30 p.m. The link to register for the orientation is on the [meeting flyer](#). For more information, please review the [Pentathlon Fact Sheet](#) or contact Kristin Rigby, Coordinator, Academic Events at 714-966-4435 or pentathlon@ocde.us.

Battle of the Counties E-Sports Competition Kickoff

October 5, 2026 3:30-5:00 p.m.

OCDE, in partnership with the Level Up Civics Foundation and Minecraft Education, is launching Battle of the Counties, a new countywide and statewide civic engagement competition that challenges students to reimagine their communities using Minecraft Education. To kick off the competition, OCDE is hosting a virtual informational meeting. Please see the [flyer](#) for event details and registration information. We hope you'll join us and share this opportunity with others who may be interested.



STEFAN BEAN, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

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