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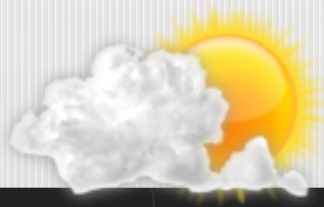


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Morning Bell: AVID/TOPS graduates its largest class



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May 09, 2014 11:20 am • By Molly Beck | Wisconsin State Journal

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Ninety-four students will graduate from Madison high schools as part of a college-readiness program that was born out of a desire to get more students who might otherwise not be bound for college on track to get there.

Morning Bell

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Reporter **Molly Beck** covers K-12 education and the Wisconsin Department of

Public Instruction for the State Journal.

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It's the largest class the AVID/TOPS program has seen since it began in at East High School, when the program graduated 10 students in 2010.

Of the 94 graduates, 84 percent are students of color, 74 percent would be first-generation college students and 66 percent come from households considered to be low-income, according to Boys and Girls Club data.

The Boys and Girls Club of Dane County and the Madison School District, who run the program at the district's four major high schools, held a graduation celebration for the students on Thursday.

Advancement Via Individual Determination, known as AVID, is a nationwide college readiness program usually implemented at schools as an elective class. The Boys and Girls Club added Teens of Promise to the class, or TOPS, which provides tutors, mentors, internships and other programs.

Of last year's class of 84 students -- the first year the program was extended to all district high school students -- about 88 percent are enrolled in college classes. That's down from the 92 percent that enrolled the fall after high school graduation.

Sixty-seven percent of the graduates in 2012 and 2011 are still in college and 60 percent of the first year's 10 graduates remain in post-secondary schools, according to the data.

In an annual assessment released last fall of the program conducted by University of Wisconsin

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in an annual assessment released last fall of the program conducted by University of Wisconsin-Madison researchers showed students enrolled in AVID/TOPS showed stronger academic progress during 2012-13 school year when compared to other students of similar academic standing and demographics.

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Tags Education, Advancement Via Individual Determination, Boys And Girls Club, Tops

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