



Investing in Your AVID Certified Educator Journey

Resources to strengthen your funding requests and advance your professional learning

This toolkit is designed to support educators who are pursuing the AVID Certified Educator (ACE) journey and need financial assistance to make that learning possible.

Inside, you'll find resources to help you confidently tell your story, articulate your goals, and show how your growth as an educator will expand opportunities for the students you serve.

We hope these tools make it easier for you to take the next step in your professional learning journey.

General Message Points

Use these message points to support conversations, presentations, or written requests for funding. Adapt them to reflect your voice and strengthen them with examples from your classroom, evidence of student growth, and your plan for applying what you gain through the ACE experience.

ACE strengthens my instruction to better serve all students.

Key message:

The ACE program is a focused, 9-month experience that will deepen my ability to deliver rigorous, engaging, and accessible instruction for every learner.

Sample language:

I am requesting financial support to participate in the AVID Certified Educator (ACE) program so I can strengthen my instructional practice in direct service of student

success. ACE is a 9-month, cohort-based experience that will help me refine how I use AVID strategies aligned to the AVID Foundations of Instruction. Through guided reflection and hands-on application, I will deepen my ability to engage all students, increase rigor, and close opportunity gaps in my classroom.

The impact extends beyond my classroom and supports schoolwide goals.

Key message:

ACE is not a one-time workshop; it is a structured journey that creates a model classroom and builds schoolwide capacity.

Sample language:

The benefits of my participation will extend beyond my classroom. The ACE journey is designed to create model classrooms and strengthen schoolwide AVID implementation. As I apply my learning, I will share strategies in PLCs and collaborative teams, support colleagues who are implementing AVID, and contribute to a more consistent, student-centered instructional approach across our school. This aligns with our goals for improved student engagement, achievement, and college and career readiness.

ACE enables me to develop as an instructional leader and supports educator retention.

Key message:

By earning national certification and university credit, I will grow as an instructional leader who can support long-term improvement at my school and in our district.

Sample language:

ACE offers a clear pathway for me to grow as an instructional leader. Participants earn a nationally recognized AVID Certified Educator certification and a digital badge that reflects 62.5 hours of learning and application time. Upon completion, I will also have the opportunity to register for five graduate-level university credits at an anticipated cost of \$395. This recognition will support my professional growth and position me to serve as a thought partner and coach for colleagues, thereby contributing to stronger educator retention and leadership capacity at our school.

This is a high-value, cost-effective professional learning investment.

Key message:

The depth, duration, and outcomes of ACE make it a high-value use of limited professional learning funds.

Sample language:

The ACE program represents a high-value investment in professional learning. Unlike a single-day training, it provides sustained support over 9 months, structured reflection, and real-time application in my classroom. The 62.5 documented hours of learning and implementation combined with the option to earn five university credits make this a cost-effective way to build my skills and bring lasting improvement to our students' learning experiences. Financial support for my participation will yield benefits that continue well beyond the program year.

ACE builds on our existing AVID investment and my prior training.

Key message:

I already meet the eligibility requirements, so ACE will deepen and leverage the AVID work we have already begun as a school or district.

Sample language:

I am already using AVID strategies in my classroom and have completed AVID training through [Insert previous AVID professional learning]. Because I meet the ACE eligibility requirements, this program is a natural next step that builds on our existing investment in AVID. The structure of the ACE program requires me to apply strategies, reflect on my practice, and collect artifacts that demonstrate growth in the AVID Foundations of Instruction; as such, we will have concrete evidence of impact that can inform our schoolwide AVID implementation and continuous improvement efforts.

AVID Certified Educator Funding Request (Formal Letter)

Personalize as needed.

Name:

School / District:

Role:

Contact Information:

Subject: Request for Support to Participate in the AVID Certified Educator Program

I am requesting financial support to participate in the AVID Certified Educator (ACE) program. ACE is a nine-month, cohort-based journey designed to strengthen instructional practice and elevate student learning. The program aligns with the AVID Foundations of Instruction and supports educators in applying proven strategies that increase engagement, rigor, and opportunity for all students.

Through this experience, I will deepen my instructional skills and bring new, research-aligned practices into my classroom. Because ACE emphasizes reflection, hands-on application, and growth over time, the learning will directly strengthen my day-to-day teaching and advance our shared commitment to success for all learners.

My participation will also contribute to our school's broader goals. ACE educators develop model classrooms and share practices with colleagues, helping to build consistent, student-centered instruction across the school. This sustained professional learning supports stronger educator retention, builds internal leadership capacity, and reinforces the AVID work we have already invested in as a school community.

At the conclusion of the program, I will earn nationally recognized AVID Certified Educator status and a digital badge representing 62.5 hours of learning and application. I will also have the opportunity to register for five graduate-level university credits at an anticipated cost of \$395. This recognition will strengthen my ability to serve as an instructional leader and support long-term growth, for myself and for our school.

I meet the program's eligibility requirements, including prior AVID training and at least one year of implementing AVID strategies. ACE is a natural next step in advancing my practice and expanding the impact of AVID across our classrooms.

Thank you for considering this request. I believe this investment will meaningfully strengthen our work with students, support our schoolwide goals, and contribute to a more consistent and empowering learning experience for every learner. I welcome any questions and am happy to discuss how this learning can support our shared vision for student success.

AVID Certified Educator Funding Request (Email)

Personalize as needed.

Subject: Request for Support to Participate in the AVID Certified Educator Program

Hello [Name],

I am reaching out to request support for my participation in the AVID Certified Educator (ACE) program. This nine-month experience would strengthen my instructional practice and help me bring AVID strategies to life in ways that expand student engagement, rigor, and opportunity.

ACE is designed to help educators reflect, apply new learning, and create model classrooms that influence schoolwide practice. By participating, I will be able to contribute more intentionally to our AVID implementation and support our shared goals for student success. The program also includes a digital badge representing 62.5 hours of learning and the option to earn five graduate-level university credits at an anticipated cost of \$395.

I meet the eligibility requirements, and this opportunity builds directly on the AVID training and strategies I already use in my classroom. I believe this experience will help me grow as an instructional leader and strengthen the support we provide to all students.

Thank you for considering this request. I am happy to discuss how this learning can advance our work together.

Message Points for Spark Good Local Grants

Customize by adding details about your school, students, or AVID outcomes.

Creating opportunity for students by strengthening teaching

My request will support my completion of the AVID Certified Educator (ACE) program, a nine-month professional learning journey that deepens student-centered instruction. Strengthening teacher practice increases students' access to rigorous learning, college and career readiness skills, and long-term opportunity.

Strengthening our local community through strong classrooms

The ACE program directly benefits the students and families served by [Walmart / Sam's Club / Distribution Center name and number]. As teachers implement AVID strategies, students build the skills needed to thrive in school, work, and life, contributing to a stronger future for our community.

Building caring and connected school communities

ACE helps educators create model classrooms where every student feels supported and capable. These classrooms foster collaboration, problem-solving,

and connection, aligning with Spark Good's focus on building caring and connected communities.

Delivering high-value learning with measurable impact

Local grant funds will offset the cost of ACE participation and, if applicable, university credits earned by participants. Each educator completes at least 62.5 hours of learning and practice, gathers evidence of impact on students, and shares strategies with colleagues, multiplying the benefit across classrooms.

Partnering with a trusted, mission-aligned school

Our school has an established AVID implementation and a strong track record with AVID strategies. ACE is the next step in deepening that work and aligns closely with the Spark Good priorities of opportunity, trust, and strengthening community.

Message Points for the Fund for Teachers Fellowship Grant

Customize by adding details about your school, students, or AVID outcomes.

Advancing instructional practice to elevate student opportunity

Fund for Teachers supports educators invested in meaningful growth. The AVID Certified Educator (ACE) program strengthens instructional practice through reflection, collaboration, and real-time classroom application that increases students' access to rigorous, engaging learning.

Deepening community impact through excellent classroom instruction

ACE expands my capacity to build classrooms where students think critically, collaborate, and take ownership of their learning. These skills create long-term benefits for students and the broader community.

Bringing new learning back to students with purpose and clarity

ACE requires educators to apply strategies, collect evidence of impact, and reflect on growth throughout the year. This ensures fellowship learning translates immediately into stronger instruction for students.

Investing in teacher leadership and expanded opportunity

Through ACE, teachers develop as instructional leaders who model accessible, student-centered practices. This leadership strengthens the learning environment not only in my classroom but across the school.

Supporting educators' agency and professional autonomy

Fund for Teachers values self-directed professional growth. ACE supports this by giving educators structure and community while allowing them to identify and address the challenges most relevant to their students.

Message Points for the NEA Foundation Learning and Leadership Grants

Customize by adding details about your school, students, or AVID outcomes.

Elevating instructional practice to strengthen opportunity for students

The AVID Certified Educators (ACE) program provides sustained, high-quality professional learning that helps educators expand what their students believe they are capable of. Educators return with strategies that support collaboration, engagement, and critical thinking.

Investing in teacher leadership that strengthens the entire school community

Learning and Leadership Grants support educators who want to grow as leaders. ACE equips teachers to create model classrooms and share effective practices with colleagues, advancing a culture of strong teaching across the school.

Engaging in high-impact professional learning with lasting results

ACE aligns with the grant's focus on meaningful, sustained development. The nine-month structure supports ongoing application, evidence collection, and instructional refinement, which drive long-term change.

Advancing access and educator empowerment

The NEA Foundation prioritizes efforts that expand student opportunity. ACE equips educators with tools and mindsets that reduce barriers and ensure every student is supported and challenged.

Supporting both individual and collaborative professional growth

ACE offers a learning structure that strengthens both individual practice and collegial study. Educators learn alongside a national cohort while also bringing insights back to their school teams.

Message Points for the [McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation Teacher Development Grants](#)

Customize by adding details about your school, students, or AVID outcomes.

Strengthening instructional practice through meaningful, sustained learning

The AVID Certified Educator (ACE) journey aligns with the McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation's belief that strong teaching grows through reflection, collaboration, and innovation. ACE helps educators deepen their use of student-centered strategies that build inquiry, independence, and active learning.

Supporting imaginative and well-designed instructional improvement projects

Teacher Development Grants prioritize innovative approaches that allow educators to study their own impact. ACE provides a structured pathway for testing new strategies, gathering evidence, and refining practice in ways that lead to meaningful instructional shifts.

Developing teacher leadership and collaborative learning

ACE strengthens the collective expertise of small teacher teams, mirroring the foundation's emphasis on collegial learning. Educators engage in shared inquiry and return ready to lead through modeling and supplying professional learning themselves.

Improving student learning through inquiry, reflection, and application

ACE equips teachers with AVID strategies that increase engagement, collaboration, and critical thinking. These efforts expand students' confidence, ownership, and academic readiness.

Aligning with expectations for documentation, reflection, and dissemination

The foundation values projects that document and share learning. ACE requires educators to collect artifacts, analyze student evidence, and reflect intentionally, making it a strong match for these requirements.

AVID Certified Educator Renewal

The AVID Certified Educator distinction requires renewal every 5 years to ensure it continues to reflect active practice, growth, and impact. The renewal journey reinforces your ongoing commitment to student success, professional excellence, and the AVID Foundations of Instruction—supported every step of the way by AVID Center resources and community.

Your journey includes:

- ✓ Staying connected with your ACE cohort and the broader ACE community
- ✓ Setting intentional goals each year
- ✓ Showcasing the Foundations of Instruction in action
- ✓ Engaging in activities that extend your impact beyond the classroom
- ✓ Reflecting on your growth and the purpose driving your practice

What's Next?

After earning your initial certification, you'll automatically begin a 5-year renewal course designed to support continued growth and connection. Throughout this cycle, you'll gather artifacts and reflections that demonstrate how you continue to model AVID's instructional practices in meaningful, measurable ways.

Your ACE digital badge remains active for 5 years. Completing the renewal requirements at the end of the cycle regenerates your badge and confirms your ongoing certification.

AVID Center provides resources, tools, and a connected community experience to support you throughout your renewal journey, working along with you to continually elevate teaching and learning.