

SPOTLIGHT: ESSER TUTORING IMPLEMENTATIONS

For education leaders facing the reality of deep learning loss among their students, high-dosage tutoring represents a unique opportunity to spur academic growth. High-dosage tutoring – provided 3-5 times per week, in 30-60 minute sessions – is one of the few educational interventions shown to reliably make an impact on student achievement in both math and reading.¹

While high-dosage tutoring programs are effective, they're also expensive. But ESSER's historic infusion of \$193 billion presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to implement, sustain, and expand high-dosage tutoring programs.

To help states and districts better understand the challenges and opportunities associated with high-dosage tutoring, we highlight several school systems across the country that are leveraging ESSER funds to implement high-dosage tutoring programs.

Denver Public Schools

To promote learning recovery, Denver Public Schools is spending part of its \$205 million in ESSER funds on high-dosage tutoring.

Challenge

- Only 46% of Denver's K-3 students were reading at grade level or above this fall – down from 56% in fall 2020 and 53% in fall 2019, before the pandemic.
- In grades 3-8, only 36% of Denver students scored at or above grade level, down from 43% in 2019.
- In math, 22% of students scored at or above grade level, down from 33% in 2019.

Approach

- Denver plans to implement a grade-level approach, in which students receive help only with the concepts taught in their grade, rather than spending time reviewing concepts from previous grades.
- The students for the tutoring program were identified by their schools, with an emphasis on serving students of color, students from low-income families, students with disabilities, students learning English as a second language, and students adversely impacted by COVID.
- Denver's reading tutoring will be provided virtually by [Cognition](#). Local teachers will serve as proctors.

¹ Cite materials from blog post.



- [University Instructors](#) will hire local tutors to provide in-person tutoring in reading.
- Most schools are hosting it during the school day, though some are doing it before or after school if that works better for them. In line with best practices, Denver plans to conduct most of its tutoring sessions during the school day.
- What Denver Public Schools pays for tutoring will ultimately depend on the impact tutoring makes for students. Denver has agreed to pay 60% of the companies' fees up front, with the remaining 40% contingent upon students' progress.
- To date, 840 students at 16 schools are participating in math tutoring – out of the district's 900,000 total students.
- 11 schools and 640 students have signed up for tutoring in reading.
- By 2023-2024, Denver aims to have provided tutoring services to 5,000 students.

Source: [Chalkbeat](#)

Tennessee

Challenge

With nearly \$2.5 billion in federal relief funding to accelerate academic growth following the pandemic, Tennessee is “making a big bet that a statewide program offering frequent, in-person, small-group tutoring will help push a swath of students to proficiency.”

According to Penny Schwinn, the state's education commissioner, “High-dosage tutoring has “consistently proven to accelerate achievement as quickly as possible” for all students regardless of their demographics, age, or whether they are from rural, suburban or urban areas.

Approach

- A three-year tutoring project called [Tennessee Accelerating Literacy and Learning Corps \(TN ALL Corps\)](#) will see the state spend \$200 million to provide tutoring to 150,000 students in math or English Language Arts in 79 districts.
- TN ALL Corps will target elementary students who are just below proficiency in reading or math.
- Districts must adhere to the following guidelines for providing tutoring services:
 - Districts must eventually serve 15% of K-5 students
 - Students must meet tutors for 30-45 minutes at least twice per week.
 - Districts must maintain a 3:1 student-tutor ratio.
 - Students must stay with one subject, whether reading or math, for the entire semester.
 - Tutors should stay with the same groups of students for the entire semester.
- Districts are able to conduct tutoring sessions during or outside the school day. Teachers, other paid employees or volunteers may serve as tutors.



- Shelby County Schools, Memphis' 110,000-student district, aims to serve 7,000 students in its 160 elementary schools, according to Shawn Page, the district's chief of academic operations and school support.
- In all, 79 Tennessee districts will begin tutoring programs under the state's plan. This is more than half of the districts in a state that has just shy of 1 million K-12 students.
- For Memphis and other districts, the state will pick up nearly half of the cost, chipping in \$700 a year per student. Shelby County will pay \$800 per student, making its bill for TN ALL Corps \$5.5 million.
- In Trousdale County's early pilot, "Kids felt comfortable making mistakes and discussing them" with tutors, said Clint Satterfield, director of schools. According to Satterfield, students showed signs of increased engagement. Later assessments proved the children's performance was improving, Satterfield said.
- In Shelby County, parents have embraced the tutoring program. "This could be a game changer for our students and district," said Shawn Page.

Source: [The 74](#)

Chicago Public Schools

Chicago's \$525 million Moving Forward Together program — a two-year effort paid for with ESSER funds — aims to boost attendance and boost reading proficiency among the 100,000 students hardest hit by the pandemic.

Challenge

- The district reported a remote schooling attendance rate of 91.3%, down from 94.2% in-person attendance during the fall of 2019.
- CPS's remote attendance rate was 88.1% for Black students, 91.9% for Latino students, 96.2% for white students, and 96.9% for Asian students.
- Even after students started returning to CPS buildings in February 2021, fewer than 24% of eligible students attended class in person, according to CPS data released in March 2021.

Approach

- CPS will provide priority support to 18,000 students that includes one-on-one interventions, home visits and access to summer school remediation.
- The recovery program includes \$25 million to hire and train 850 tutors for K-5 reading and Grade 6-8 math at schools demonstrating the greatest needs.

Source: [Education Week](#)



Dallas ISD

Challenge

In Fall 2021, Dallas ISD debuted an after-school program next year to help them make up for learning opportunities lost to the pandemic.

“It’s going to help us significantly with learning loss and that’s really our biggest objective,” said Superintendent Michael Hinojosa at the time the initiative was announced.

Approach

- Dallas provides three hours of after-school programming five days a week at 61 schools, featuring tutoring hubs, athletics and the arts. Of the total spend – which was funded through ESSER – Dallas ISD projects tutoring to account for \$12 million over a three-year period.
- Critical to the program’s success – delivering tutoring in high doses. Derek Little, Dallas’s deputy chief of academics said that the ideal cadence for tutoring sessions is three times per week. “This is not what we traditionally think of as tutoring,” Little said. “Tutoring goes far beyond just homework help.”
- Dallas ISD’s plan included “turning to local institutions of higher education to find tutors, along with expanding their partnerships with volunteer groups.” They will likely also hire part-time tutors to work within the district.
- The district partnered with [Brown University’s National Student Support Accelerator](#), which works to create effective, research-based tutoring programs across the country.

Source: [Dallas Morning News](#)

Montgomery County Public Schools

Montgomery County Public Schools are relying on intensive tutoring – among other strategies – to combat pandemic-related learning loss.

Approach

- In January, the district rolled out tutoring services, which are being provided by [FEV Tutor](#) and [TutorMe Education](#). The tutoring will be based in MCPS reading and math curricula provided by Eureka Math, LearnZillion, Benchmark Advance and Benchmark Adelante, and StudySync.
- As of March 2022, more than 1,600 students had participated in over 2,800 hours of tutoring.
- Results of a group of students that had taken part in reading and math interventions provided by tutors “demonstrated more growth in both reading and math than [the average MCPS student] on the whole,” said Scott Murphy, the school system’s director of college and career readiness. District data indicated that students receiving tutoring showed double the rate of academic growth as those who did not participate.

Source: [WTOP](#)