

# Where Tutoring Works: A New Look at Use Cases and Opportunities



[varsitytutorsforschools.com](https://www.varsitytutorsforschools.com)

 **Varsity Tutors**  
for Schools



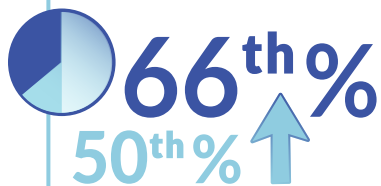
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## Uplift Every Student. Support Every Educator.

School districts nationwide are looking for proven solutions to address a spectrum of students' academic, social, and emotional needs. At the same time, district leaders are also grappling with filling instructional staff shortages, ensuring equity in learning opportunities, and preparing for unforeseen learning emergency scenarios—from quarantine to severe weather challenges.

To tackle these wide-ranging needs, districts of all sizes are rapidly and consistently turning toward one solution: tutoring. Now considered a contributing component to the instructional mix, tutoring offers a proven, affordable, and effective strategy to meet every student's needs during and beyond the school day and expand educators' instructional capacity. With a flexible and full-scale tutoring program districts can personalize learning for students and support all levels of student needs, from special education and mainstream to gifted and talented programs. Tutoring also allows districts to deliver additional help with test preparation, homework help, and enrichment during the summer and through before/after school learning opportunities.



A 2020 survey of K-12 tutoring interventions evaluated in randomized controlled trials found that with the help of tutoring, a student at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile would improve to the 66<sup>th</sup> percentile\*

\*Nickow, Oreopoulous, and Quan (2020): Brookings.

In this eBook, readers will find descriptions of essential tutoring use cases, including:

- Homework and essay help
- In-class small group instruction
- Emergency/remote learning
- Support for students with learning differences
- Before/after school and summer programs
- Instructional staffing support



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## Students Need Homework Help Outside of Class. Tutoring Fills the Need.

Students sometimes need extra support with work outside of the school day. Often the key to success is working through assignments with a knowledgeable tutor who focuses on helping students understand the project at hand and learn how to tackle future assignments with confidence and clarity.

## Technology Clicks

When students and tutors can interact immediately with the same document from any location, aided by real-time digital drawing and writing tools, editing that essay, working through that geometry problem, and outlining each step of a project can start with a single click. Students get the help they need without adding extra work for teachers.

## Getting Homework from Due to Done

Some learners need help getting started. Some need support in planning their work to achieve completion. Others might need a refresh around core skills or concepts before tackling a bigger assignment or ideas for research.

On-demand homework, project, and essay help can lead to higher quality student work, assignments turned in on time, and stronger independent learning and study skills.



*“To catch up, many students will need step-up opportunities to accelerate their learning. Now is the time for school systems to prepare post-pandemic strategies that help students meet their full potential.”\**

\*July 2021, COVID-19 and learning – disparities grow and students need help, McKinsey & Company.

- *“Varsity Tutors’ services are helping us accelerate growth to proficiency as measured by nationally normed assessments. Students who participated in high-dosage tutoring for at least one semester grew to proficiency at a rate of 80% compared to 45% for students without assistance from Varsity Tutors.”*
- — KIPP Indy Public Schools





## Unique Pathways = Unique Needs at the Point of Instruction

In the classroom, students and teachers both deal with a dizzying spectrum of needs. Some students need to relearn fundamental concepts to move forward. Others need help staying engaged and on task. Still, others need simple coaching to solve problems or make sense of complex concepts. Access to personalized learning means that every student gets the help and support they need, when they need it, either through 1-on-1 tutoring or small group tutoring sessions. This helps teachers keep on track and students learn the required content and skills to continue their academic progress.

## Teachers and Tutors: A Team Approach

When teachers are empowered to add tutoring to the instructional mix, they can address students' needs as they evolve. Technology-enabled performance tracking and reporting give both classroom teachers and administrators detailed, current data about students' progress based on skill-based assignments and adaptive diagnostic assessments. As a result, teachers and tutors can work as a team to ensure students are achieving desired learning outcomes.

## Students Who Need More Help Get It

Instead of hoping students will catch on and catch up, delivering sessions with a tutor during the school day can turn a learning gap into learning growth without delay and without dampening students' engagement or enthusiasm. And all this happens without adding more to teachers' to-do lists.

- *"Small group tutoring from Varsity Tutors has*
- *been highly effective in repairing or advancing*
- *skills that students may have missed during*
- *the course of the year. In addition, the Varsity*
- *Tutors' Learning Lab has been an effective*
- *assessment tool to analyze the skills students*
- *need for next step learning and to drive student*
- *engagement during tutoring."*

— Dr. Nimisha Bhatt, Peoria Public Schools



Tutoring programs conducted during school tend to have larger impacts than those conducted after school.\*

\*J-Pal. The Transformative Potential of Tutoring for PreK-12 Learning Outcomes



# Emergency and/or Prepared Learning

## Prepared to Pivot

Whenever there is a disruption to in-person learning from illness, severe weather, or other events, schools need the flexibility to pivot to remote learning and continue to help students complete their coursework. A 2021 article from *The 74*\* noted that during the fall of the year, extreme weather disrupted the start of the school year, with school closures impacting more than 1.1 million students. And from 2017 through 2019, nearly 1 in 5 U.S. students attended schools in districts that were affected by federally declared natural disaster.



## Tutoring Happens Whenever Students Need Support

With both high-dosage and on-demand tutoring initiatives in place, school districts have the flexibility to deliver instruction remotely if needed. Tutoring can augment and extend instruction and maintain learning continuity, supplementing teacher-directed instruction. With a tutoring program, students don't miss learning opportunities and the risk of falling behind diminishes. And tutoring can enhance teachers' work by providing data and insights into student progress. With real-time delivery of assessments and reporting as part of a tutoring program, teachers don't fall behind either because they continue to see student data gathered from each tutoring session. This gives them the data they need to adjust instruction and manage interventions over time.

## Learning Continuity is the Priority

Emergencies happen. Learning doesn't have to stop. With the support of technology-enabled instruction from classroom teachers and tutors alike, students can continue to make academic progress.

- *"What we find is with that additional tutoring time, our students were able to improve more effectively and more quickly than had been true in the classroom environment. It is a completely different environment than was the case two, three, or five years ago. It isn't because of the pandemic. It's the nature of what Varsity Tutors brought to the table."*
- — Cheryl Lawson, Superintendent, The Lawson Academy

\* <https://www.the74million.org/article/when-climate-change-forces-schools-to-close-fires-storms-and-heatwaves-have-already-kept-1-million-students-out-of-classrooms-this-semester/>



**91%<sup>of</sup> 14,800**  
**STUDENTS**

Ninety-one percent of students in a Varsity Tutors' study of more than 14,800 students accelerated and achieved skill mastery in areas where they had learning skills gaps using the Varsity Tutors' support program.\*

\*Varsity Tutors research, 2021.

# Specialized Tutoring for Students with Learning Differences



## Transforming Barriers into Bridges

Every student with a learning difference is unique, with individual challenges, distinct needs, and learning styles. Individualized, personalized support from professionals who know where to focus and how to inspire confidence can make a measurable, lasting impact.

## More of the “Aha!” Moments Every Learner Deserves

Tutoring works most effectively when it's data-driven and structured individually to leverage each student's strengths and specific learning needs. Equally important is anchoring instruction to help students achieve outcomes determined as part of their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan. Successful tutoring initiatives use data from adaptive assessments, insights from the school staffing team, and families to plan and deliver tutoring personalized to individual student needs.

Schools and districts often struggle with developing and delivering the individualized support students with learning differences need. Tutoring, in both 1-on-1 and small group settings, can augment school and district capacity, allowing for students of similar age and levels to learn side-by-side regardless of their location. Students benefit from learning with peers. Schools and districts benefit by working beyond the confines of a classroom or single building to support all students with IEP and 504 plans in a well-coordinated program.

## Learning Differences Drive Learning Innovation

Creating a supportive environment for students with learning differences, their families and classroom teachers can be challenging. Adding a focused, tech-enabled tutoring component to address specific student needs and opportunities can help students move forward, meet objectives, and build learning capacity and confidence.



Tutoring programs need to work within the framework of the curricula and methodologies in use in students' classrooms.

Tutors with explicit training in specific intervention methods, such as Orton-Gillingham, Lindamood-Bell, and the Wilson Method for literacy, help ensure students get the differentiated support they need so they can benefit from classroom instruction.

What's more, as an article from Special Ed Resource.com\* points out, tutoring for children with learning disabilities helps these students focus on their challenges, build comfort in asking for help, identify best test-taking strategies, alleviate testing anxiety, and learn new comprehension strategies.

\*Special Ed Resource.com

- “For students with special needs, we offer individualized and
- group instruction at a pace that allows them understanding
- and more important, self-confidence. Varsity Tutors
- works with more than 10,000 tutors who bring special
- qualifications in special education, ESL/ELL, Dyslexia,
- ADHD, Autism, and Gifted Programs.”
- — Mark Deppe, Tutor in Special Needs

# Before, After & Summer School Programs

## Learning Beyond the Bell

Extra help. New opportunities to learn and explore. These can mean the difference between making progress or just getting by in school. Many districts are looking at extended day and summer programs to boost academic outcomes. But with teachers already overloaded and often overstressed, and staffing shortages impacting teaching capacity, that's a high mountain to climb. Many are now looking at tutoring options to achieve their beyond-the-school-day objectives.

## Flexibility and a Focus on Learning Gains

Districts can now design before- and after-school programs and summer learning initiatives that address students' specific learning needs. From intervention to build foundational academic skills to enrichment for more accelerated, challenging learning opportunities, customized tutoring programs open new avenues for growth. These kinds of robust learning enhancements make districts more competitive in their broader communities.

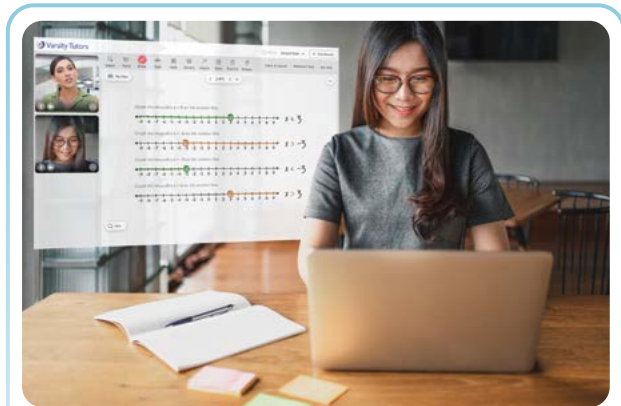
Summer tutoring programs are often valuable learning and enrichment opportunities for students. A strategic combination of core academic supports mixed with a wide variety of live virtual drop-in classes, high-interest on-demand lessons, and unique opportunities to explore topics with top experts all combine for unforgettable summers and learning that lasts.

## Learning simply doesn't start or stop with the traditional school day.

With extended day tutoring options, districts can meet students' learning needs as they arise and use summers to close gaps, accelerate learning, and offer enrichment to every learner.

- *"Our strategies are all around making the school succeed through the tutoring program so the students can succeed. I get up every morning and I think about how I can make a difference. I think everyone does. And I think in this way, the Varsity Tutor team did just that."*

— Cheryl Lawson, Superintendent, The Lawson Academy



*"Academic OST (out-of-school time) programs can demonstrably improve academic outcomes and do not necessarily reduce program attendance at the elementary level.\*"*

*\*McCombs, Whitaker, Yoo:  
RAND Corporation. 2017*



## An Answer to Staffing Challenges

Teacher shortages are real and, in some areas, getting worse. Recent research from the EdWeek Research Center reported that half of the principals surveyed closed schools during the last major COVID-19 wave due to staff shortages. Education job openings grew by nearly 75% in the fall of 2021. Enrollments in teacher education programs are dropping. And all of this is taking place as public scrutiny and performance expectations for schools increase.

## Tutoring Answers the Call

In addition to traditional tutoring modalities, integrating tutoring supports as a regular component of classroom instruction can help with short- and longer-term needs. For 1-on-1 and small group instruction, qualified tutors can augment and extend classroom teachers' capacity answering either on-demand needs or extended session scheduling. With this scenario, classroom teachers and instructional leaders maintain instructional oversight and receive detailed progress reporting. Students benefit from support as they need it, and teachers benefit from a more controllable, collaborative learning environment.

**Augmenting staffing shortages as needs arise** or over a full-school year requires access to qualified educators and subject-area specialists, and a partner with proven abilities to manage district-wide tutoring programs at scale.

# 44%

**VACANCY**

Nearly 44% of US public schools currently report full- or part-time teaching vacancies\*

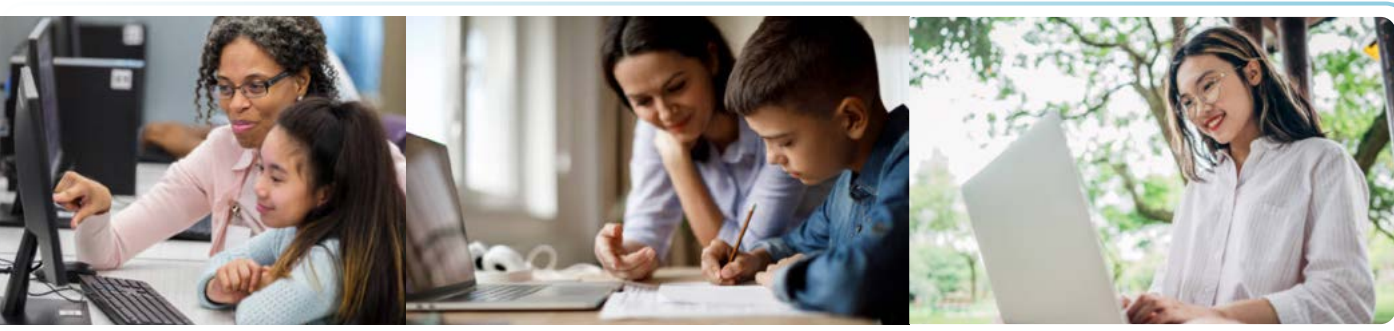
\*[https://nces.ed.gov/whatsnew/press\\_releases/3\\_3\\_2022.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/whatsnew/press_releases/3_3_2022.asp)

- *“Staffing shortages and turnover are impacting education at every*
- *level. Varsity Tutors for Schools works with more than 40,000*
- *highly qualified tutors, with expertise across the K-12 curriculum,*
- *from early literacy and special education to AP and IB courses.*
- *With both our on-demand and high-dosage tutoring programs,*
- *school districts can address instructional staffing needs on a just-*
- *in-time or regular basis confidently and affordably.”*
- — Anthony Salcito, Chief Institution Business Officer, Varsity Tutors

## Moving Forward. Making Progress.

As school districts and state education agencies continue to deliver quality instruction and support for their students, students' families, and communities, tutoring will be a valuable component of the instructional landscape.

With tech-enabled instruction here to stay, multimodal instruction has the potential to extend and enhance teaching and learning from the very earliest grades through high school. Asynchronous and synchronous learning through tutoring in both on-demand and high-dosage formats will support districts' instructional plans and capacity. Innovative, outcome-driven leaders will turn to comprehensive tutoring programs to augment learning, address staffing needs, and realize the positive impacts of personalized learning opportunities for all students.



# Varsity Tutors for Schools

**Varsity Tutors for Schools** (VTS) is a leading tutoring services provider for local and state education agencies. Our proprietary technology platform includes embedded assessments, curricular tools and resources, and reporting. We engage highly qualified tutors and match them to the needs of each student or group of students to deliver a uniquely individualized instructional sequence.

Through our Live Learning Platform, we seamlessly connect the learner to experts in more than 3,000 subjects. Since 2007, we've been investing in online learning technology, have built new-to-the-world capabilities, and have assembled some of the most talented tutors, educators, and instructors across the U.S. to help deliver that mission. Through one-on-one instruction, small group classes, large format group classes, and adaptive self-study, we offer school districts a live learning destination to meet the needs of all students.

Our services work to expand instructional capacities, extending the reach of educators, and supplement and support each of our client's instructional foundations. With our On-Demand and High-Dosage tutoring programs, we deliver comprehensive, customized programs that address each district's unique needs, workflow, and instructional approaches to support continually improving academic outcomes.



**Learn more about Varsity Tutors for Schools  
by scheduling a meeting or calling (800) 908-4120.**

## VT High Dosage

One-to-one and small group tutoring to support and engage students hardest hit by interrupted learning or longer-term learning challenges.

## VT On Demand

A solution to provide all students with barrier-free on-demand tutoring, self-study resources, and engaging enrichment to ensure each student receives help when it's needed.

## Unlimited Summer Learning

Turn summer slide into high-powered learning and prep for the school year ahead, with live and recorded content, dedicated tutoring time, special events and more.



# Do More than Catch Up. Accelerate!

Use the Power of Tutoring  
to Help Students and Teachers  
When, Where & How They Need It.

