



Oklahoma Math Tutoring Corps

Providing 7th-9th grade students intensive, high-dosage virtual tutoring to close gaps in math learning and ensure algebra readiness

WHY IS THIS INITIATIVE NEEDED?

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted learning for the majority of Oklahoma students, and national studies indicate that [the core subject most impacted is mathematics](#). We now face a collective challenge – how to support students to be algebra-ready.

Mathematics skills build over time, and algebra readiness is critical for success in higher-level mathematics and other postsecondary opportunities. In recognition of the importance of algebra readiness, the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) is investing in a Math Tutoring Corps to support 7th-9th grade students in gaining math skills and concepts they may have missed due to learning disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This effort will begin in winter 2021 and continue through summer 2024.

HOW WILL THIS INITIATIVE WORK?

Each year, the OSDE will recruit and hire up to 500 educators and college students to provide virtual tutoring services outside of school hours for up to 1,500 7th-9th graders. The number and duration of tutoring sessions will be based on evidence-based, high-dosage tutoring programs, with each session focusing on algebraic reasoning and other mathematical understanding essential for success in future mathematics coursework. Tutors will be provided with training and ongoing support to provide a positive and productive experience for all students.

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH BASE FOR THIS INITIATIVE?

- An [Annenberg Foundation brief](#) demonstrates the research base for high-dosage tutoring.
- A [National Bureau of Economic Research report](#) shows intensive math tutoring in Chicago public schools improved math performance of 9th and 10th graders.
- In Brown University's [National Student Support Accelerator](#), university/college students provide free tutoring to ensure equitable student access to high-quality tutoring.
- National education policy officials analyzed the effectiveness of intensive, research-based tutoring to accelerate learning in [this story](#) on The 74 Million news website.

WHAT IS THE OSDE'S TOTAL INVESTMENT IN THIS INITIATIVE?

The OSDE will invest approximately \$5 million of its federal relief funding to pay for intensive, high-dosage algebra readiness tutoring. (Figures are based on an estimated 1,500 students and 500 tutors per year. Actual numbers may vary.)

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will this initiative impact students?

Students who struggle with algebra often struggle with or avoid higher-level mathematics courses that are prerequisites for postsecondary pursuits in high-salary technical careers. With high-dosage tutoring sessions three times a week, up to 1,500 Oklahoma students each year will have the opportunity to better understand algebraic concepts and be better prepared for success in high school and beyond.

How will students be selected for tutoring?

The OSDE will use state and local assessment data to determine student eligibility and ensure students who could benefit most from this opportunity are served. Schools and families will be notified of student eligibility, and the OSDE will work with school districts to ensure students have the equipment and support needed to participate.

How will tutors be selected, and what compensation will they receive?

Applications have been disseminated to Oklahoma educators and college students through various forms of communication and are posted on the [OSDE mathematics web page](#). Tutors will be paid for tutoring sessions, planning and training; certified teachers will earn \$50 per hour, and college students will receive \$25 per hour.

How will students be matched to tutors?

Although tutoring sessions will occur virtually, efforts will be made to match students to tutors based on regional representation and availability. In keeping with research on the most successful models for intensive, high-dosage tutoring, no more than three students will be assigned to each tutor.

How will students participate in tutoring sessions?

Students will use an electronic device (tablet, laptop or desktop computer) and a virtual communication platform to participate. If students do not have access to the hardware or Internet connection required to participate, the OSDE will provide the equipment needed at no cost to the student.

How will student outcomes be measured?

Formative assessment data, family and student surveys, and summative assessment data will be used to measure student outcomes.

Will students have the opportunity to continue tutoring for a second and third year?

Based on eligibility and interest, students may continue to receive tutoring services for additional years.

For questions about Math Tutoring Corps, contact Anthony Purcell, Director of High School and College Math Readiness, at Anthony.Purcell@sde.ok.gov.

For information about federal education relief funding, see the [American Rescue Plan FAQs](#).