

Driving Impact Ahead of The ESSER Deadline

Funding sources to bring (and keep)
high-dosage tutoring in your district



The deadline for the Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) funds, which have been instrumental in aiding schools nationwide to combat pandemic-induced learning setbacks and implement tutoring solutions, is rapidly approaching. With a commitment deadline set for September 30, 2024, schools are now confronted with the critical task of determining how to allocate any remaining funds effectively.

District decision-makers are intensifying their efforts to devise strategic plans for the optimal distribution of ESSER funds, aiming to ensure that they are utilized to provide high-quality resources for students, yielding sustainable long-term results.

Priority lies in directing these funds towards evidence-based resources proven to accelerate the learning progress of students who have suffered from pandemic-related learning loss. As discussions persist within districts and schools regarding the optimal utilization of these funds, it is crucial to bear in mind key aspects of ESSER funding as the deadline looms closer.

How to Maximize Remaining ESSER Dollars:

Should school districts neglect to allocate their ESSER III funds by the deadline, they risk forfeiting them entirely. Below are essential guidelines and key dates to remember:

- Schools nationwide are eligible to use funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) fund to address pandemic learning loss and support tutoring **through 9/30/28**, as long as the funds are obligated by 9/30/24.
- Per the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), instead of forfeiting remaining ESSER III funds, schools can enter into **multi-year contracts** for expenses like high-dosage tutoring delivered via software (e.g. Varsity Tutors for Schools).
- Districts interested in using ESSER III funds for these purposes must take into account **two critical deadlines**:

<p>Obligation Deadline September 30th, 2024</p>	<p>This deadline represents the date by which districts must commit their remaining ESSER III funding. After September 30th, districts will lose any remaining ESSER III funding that has not been committed via contract.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Obligation may include entering into multi-year, high-dosage tutoring contracts. In fact, the DOE strongly suggests obligating all remaining funding for academic recovery. ✓ Multi-year contracts allow districts purchase tutoring software licenses that can be used over multiple years, which enables schools to sustain students' academic recovery and remain compliant with ESSER III spending rules.
<p>Liquidation Deadline January 28, 2025</p>	<p>This represents the date by which districts must actually spend all ESSER III funds, though the goods and services the funding is paying for may continue to be used and delivered through 9/30/2028.</p>	<p>Sign by 09/30/2024 Pay by 01/28/2025 Use by 09/30/2028</p>

Drive Maximum Impact With ESSER Dollars

Among the myriad educational resources available, high-dosage tutoring stands out as the most effective solution, consistently proven to yield accelerated learning outcomes for all students.

According to research performed by the USDOE, “56% of school leaders rated the implementation of high-dosage tutoring to support student learning recovery as extremely or very effective.”

Research consistently highlights the long-term advantages of high-dosage tutoring, which typically involves one-on-one or small group tutoring sessions occurring at least three times a week, totaling approximately 50 hours over a semester. High-dosage tutoring has been shown to increase “students’ learning by an additional three to 15 months across grade levels; moves an average student from the 50th percentile to the 66th percentile; and is, overall, 20 times more effective than standard tutoring models for math and 15 times more effective for reading.”



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Not all tutoring programs are built the same. Explore playbooks for **high impact tutoring**... They’re going to make a difference for the children we serve

Miguel Cardona, Ed. D.

U.S. Secretary of Education

High-Dosage Tutoring Success Story:

Polk County Public Schools



During the 2022–2023 school year, Polk County Public Schools (PCPS) partnered with Varsity Tutors for Schools to implement a High-Dosage Tutoring, Teacher Assigned Model, in 43 schools throughout the district.

Varsity Tutors for Schools supported a phased rollout of the program, as requested by PCPS, launching three phases sequentially over 9 weeks. In Phase 1, Varsity Tutors for Schools onboarded 40,172 students to the Varsity Tutors Platform, providing access to platform features including 24/7 On-Demand Chat Tutoring, On-Demand Essay Review, Live Classes in Test Prep & Enrichment, and Self-Study & Practice Resources for all students.

To support the Polk County Teacher Assigned™ Implementation, Varsity Tutors for Schools introduced supplementary tools to ensure students in Polk County's growing population were paired with subject-matter experts. Between February 2023 and May 2023, Varsity Tutors for Schools delivered over 8,000 hours of 1-on-1 instruction for PCPS students and supported over 2,700 on-demand tutoring sessions via the 24/7 On-Demand Chat Tutoring feature.

To measure program success of its pilot implementation, from February through May 2023, the district used the Florida state FAST exams for its baseline and summative assessments, across all students in the district: the FAST PM1 exam, taken in Fall 2022 at the beginning of the school year, served as the baseline assessment and the FAST PM3 exam, taken at the end of the year served as the summative performance measure. As expected over the course of a school year, students in both the target (tutoring) and control (non-tutoring) groups saw improvement over the school year, but Varsity Tutors for Schools users (defined as having attended at least one tutoring session) enjoyed significantly higher growth.

HIGHLIGHTS

44%

Improvement in English Language Arts

27%

Improvement in Mathematics

Other Federal Funding Sources for High-Dosage Tutoring

ESSER dollars are not the only way to fund high-dosage tutoring programs. Districts can access other funding sources to strategically invest in their students.

FEDERAL OPTIONS

- 01 Title I**
To help children from low-income households achieve at high levels
- 02 Title III**
To help English Learners (ELs) and students who are immigrants to achieve at high levels
- 03 Title IVA**
To help improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students
- 04 McKinney-Vento**
To help students experiencing homelessness

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERATIONS

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

High-dosage tutoring is an allowable expense as long as the tutor is a licensed special education instructor or an aide under the supervision of a licensed special education instructor.

STATE OPTIONS

- 05 Funding Initiatives for States**
Several states have implemented or are exploring funding initiatives for high-dosage tutoring. These programs demonstrate a commitment from various states to mitigate learning loss and provide targeted academic support through high-dosage tutoring. For detailed information on each state's specific initiatives, you can refer to the respective state education department websites or the National Student Support Accelerator's database.

In Conclusion

With a commitment deadline looming on September 30, 2024, schools are tasked with strategic decision-making to ensure the most impactful use of ESSER funds.

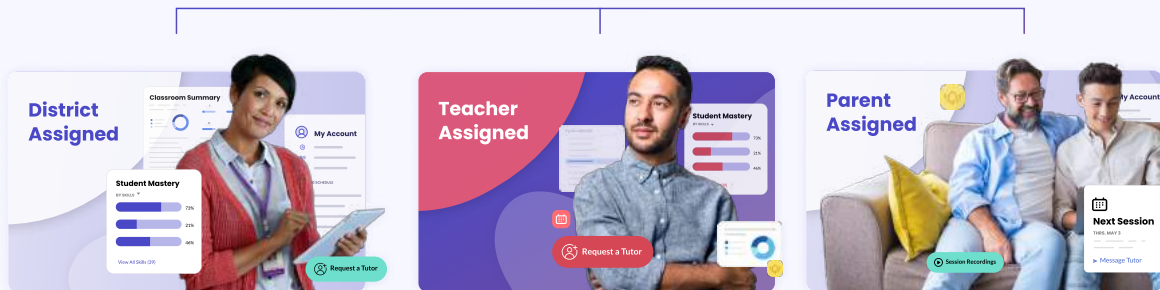
District leaders are redoubling their efforts to devise plans that prioritize high-quality resources, aiming for sustainable, long-term benefits for students. Priority lies in directing these funds towards evidence-based solutions proven to accelerate learning progress.

In this endeavor, Varsity Tutors for Schools emerges as a turn-key solution, offering tailored, high-caliber tutoring solutions to sustain academic recovery. With 40,000+ qualified tutors and an award-winning Live Learning Platform, Varsity Tutors for Schools partners with 500+ K-12 schools and districts to deliver high-quality tutoring and teacher capacity expansion at scale.

Through live, video-based, one-on-one and small-group high-dosage tutoring, Varsity Tutors for Schools combines cutting-edge technology and an evidence-based approach to closing learning gaps.

High-Dosage Tutoring

1-on-1 Tutoring | Small Group Tutoring | Progress Reporting



Transparent reporting:

Identify and monitor the use of weekly sessions across your district. Receive notes from the tutor and mastery data for each session. Easily understand program impact with progress data.

No-Cost Access to our Platform of Powerful Learning Resources

- ✓ 24/7 On-Demand Chat Tutoring
- ✓ Live Group Classes
- ✓ On-Demand Essay Review
- ✓ Celebrity-Led StarCourse Classes
- ✓ Self-Study & Practice Problems
- ✓ College & Career Readiness
- ✓ Enrichment Classes
- ✓ Adaptive Assessments & Personalized Learning Plans



If you want to learn more about about

how you can bring a high-dosage tutoring program to your district

or would like to discuss options for funding high-dosage tutoring, [let's connect.](#)



Learn more!

[varsitytutors.com/school-solutions](https://www.varsitytutors.com/school-solutions)