Building Your Own Program: Making Tutoring Model Decisions

Purpose: This tool supports districts in making key decisions for designing a tutoring model that aligns with their unique priorities and context. By addressing critical components such as tutor selection, collaboration methods, session frequency, and group size, districts can create a tailored program that maximizes impact and supports student success.

Already Decided Program Components
- Target Students:
- Content Area/s:
- Grade Level/s:

Remaining Decisions

1. **Who will be your tutors?**
   - ☐ Teachers
   - ☐ Paraprofessionals
   - ☐ Paid Service Volunteers

   Research Insights: The various tutor types listed above can be effective with the proper training and coaching.

2. **How will students and tutors collaborate**
   - ☐ In-person
   - ☐ Online/virtually
   - ☐ Blended
   - ☐ Other: _____

   Research Insights: In-person sessions foster stronger student-tutor relationships, though virtual options can provide flexibility.

3. **How often will tutoring sessions happen?**
   - ☐ Three times per week
   - ☐ Four times per week
   - ☐ Five times per week
   - ☐ Other: _____

   Research Insights: Schedule at least three 30-60 minute weekly sessions to maximize impact. Younger students may benefit from shorter but more frequent sessions.

4. **How many students will each tutor work with at a time?**
   - ☐ One student per tutor
   - ☐ Two to three students per tutor (consider the tutor type when making this decision)
   - ☐ Other: _____

   Research Insights
   - Limit group sizes to three students or fewer to maintain effectiveness.
   - Inexperienced tutors may need additional support when working with groups larger than one student.

5. **Where and when will tutoring take place?**
   - ☐ As part of Tier I instruction
   - ☐ During Tier II or III supports
   - ☐ A different time during the school day: _____

   Research Insights: Scheduling tutoring during the school day ensures greater participation and avoids inequitable self-selection issues.

   Additional Insights
   - Mandatory participation ensures that students in need receive support.
   - Assigning students to a consistent tutor fosters strong relationships and enhances motivation and persistence.
   - Consistency is critical for building trust and achieving long-term academic progress.

Citation
- Robinson, C. D., Kraft, M. A., Loeb, S., & Schueler, B. (2024). *Design principles for accelerating student learning with high-impact tutoring* (EdResearch for Action Brief No. 30). Annenberg Institute at Brown University. https://studentsupportaccelerator.org/sites/default/files/EdResearch%20Accelerating%20Student%20Learning%20With%20High-Impact%20Tutoring.pdf