

# Starting Your District's **Tutoring** Journey with **Early Literacy**

RESEARCH SUMMARY

For schools considering tutoring,

**early literacy tutoring is a good place to start.**



Students make their biggest leaps in reading ability in early elementary school, and **learning to read strongly predicts later life outcomes**, including high school test scores and high school graduation. As many fourth graders are not meeting proficiency on reading assessments, schools have turned to early literacy tutoring to catch students up.

## Research Shows What Works!



**During the school day**



**One-on-one**



**Strong use of assessment data**



**Consistent tutor**



**Alignment to instruction**

## What has worked in other schools

Effective early literacy tutoring can take many forms. Programs vary in their tutors, ratios, delivery (online or in person), and more. Here is a sample of the variety of approaches that effective programs use:

- ➔ **AmeriCorps tutors** provide one-on-one tutoring five days a week for 20 minutes a day to K-3 students who score below benchmark on an initial assessment.
- ➔ **Paraprofessionals** provide one-on-one tutoring five days a week for 15 minutes a day.
- ➔ **Pre-service teachers** contracted from a local university system provide one-on-one tutoring to K-2 students 3-5 times a week to fulfill their fieldwork requirements.
- ➔ **Volunteers** provide one-on-one tutoring to K-4 students twice a week for 45 minutes.
- ➔ **Professional tutors** trained to use tutoring software provide one-on-one tutoring to K-2 students for 5-10 minutes five days a week.

## What to keep in mind

- ➔ **Make sessions required.** Opt-in programs rarely engage high-need students effectively.
- ➔ **Stay aligned with the science of reading**, such as phonemic awareness and vocabulary.
- ➔ **Choose either in-person or virtual tutoring** to best meet your needs. Research shows either can work well.
- ➔ **Establish regular monitoring of student performance early.**

Early literacy tutoring can result in...

**4 months**

of additional learning<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Nickow, et al. 2024

