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Scaling High-impact tutoring: School Level Perspectives on Implementation Challenges and Strategies

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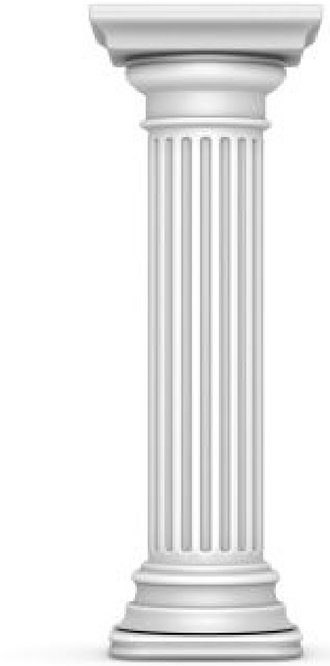
USC Rossier

National Student Support Accelerator
equalizing access to quality tutoring

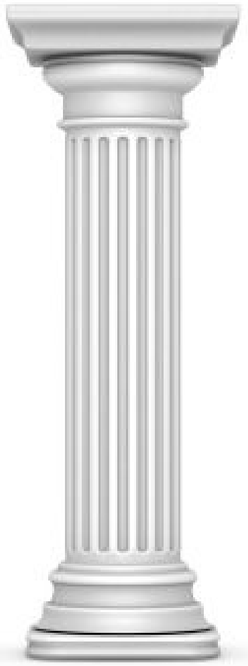
Smith Richardson Foundation

America Achieves

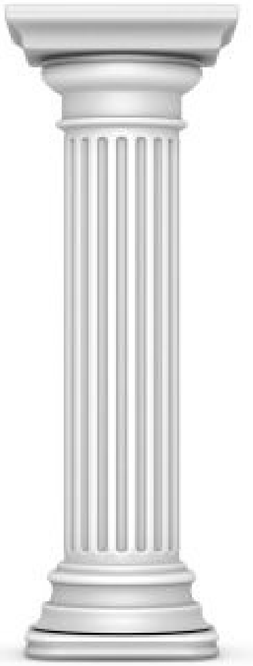
Pillars of High-Impact Tutoring



Personalized Instruction



Multiple 45-60 Minute Sessions



Curriculum Supplement

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High Impact Tutoring is...

(Merod, 2022)

Timely

- More than 40% of school districts and charter school organizations plan to fund tutoring and academic coaching using their federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief, according to a new report by FutureEd, a nonpartisan think tank at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy.

(Walker, 2024)

Effective

That's the conclusion of an increasing number of researchers, school leaders and classroom teachers who have seen the practice in action. High-impact tutoring has been shown to be 20 times more effective than standard tutoring models for math and 15 times more effective for reading. Studies demonstrate that the practice increases students' learning by an additional t*hree to 15 months* across grade levels.

Research Questions

1. What **barriers** and **facilitators** to high-impact tutoring program's implementation at the school level do school-level staff identify?
2. What major **challenges** to **scaling** up high-impact tutoring practices and what promising strategies to address these challenges do school-level staff identify?
3. How do these barriers, facilitators, challenges and strategies **vary** between a **CMO** and a **TSD**?

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Sample

SURVEY DATA		
Setting	Classroom Teachers	Administrators
Traditional School District	248	244
Charter	101	19

INTERVIEW DATA	
Setting	
Traditional School District	12
Charter	5

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Barrier to Scaling: Physical Space

"WE WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE… A TRAILER VILLAGE OF OUR OWN. THAT HASN'T MATERIALIZED YET. SO WE ARE IN **EVERY AVAILABLE NOOK AND CRANNY** IN THAT BUILDING… OUR TUTORS ARE **IN THE HALLWAYS** THERE… IT'S NOT AN IDEAL SITUATION FOR MY K-3 TUTORS. BUT IT'S WHAT WE HAVE TO WORK WITH"

-TSD CURRICULUM FACILITATOR

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Barrier to Scaling: Scheduling Constraints

"**THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH TIME IN THE DA**Y, AND THEN YOU'VE GOT TO DO YOUR 40 MIN OF SPECIALS AND 30 MIN OF LUNCH AND 30 MIN OF RECESS. AND THAT… TAKES THE WHOLE MIDDLE OF THE DAY. AND SO, THEN THE TUTORS ARE LIKE, "IS ANYBODY TEACHING AT THIS TIME?"… **THE MASTER SCHEDULE MAKES IT CHALLENGING.**"

— TSD ADMINISTRATOR

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Barrier to Scaling: Tutor Supply

"**I NEED… A LEAD TUTOR**. THEY WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF GOING AROUND AND MAKING SURE THE TUTORS WERE TRAINED IN ALL THE INTERVENTIONS… **MANAGING THE DATA AND THE FLEXIBILITY**, ALL OF THAT. BECAUSE THAT'S CURRENTLY BEING DONE BY MY CURRICULUM FACILITATOR. IT'S A FULL TIME JOB… TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THE MASTER SCHEDULE"

—CMO PRINCIPAL

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Challenge Area	Strategies	Target Results
Making Space for Tutoring	Invest in permanent, designated tutoring spaces in schools. If not feasible, bring tutoring into the classroom.	Students have a space where there is sufficient privacy and availability of requisite materials to focus on learning.
Embedding into the School Day	Hire a lead tutor to manage program scheduling. Identify a school advocate who champions for program success.	Students have adequate time for tutoring during the school day without missing core classroom instruction.
Tutor Supply & Pipeline	Partner with external institutions (e.g., colleges or universities) to identify a supply of well-trained tutors. Explore re-staffing retired district teachers as tutors.	Hiring additional tutors helps provide high-impact tutoring to all eligible students.
Data Tracking & Analysis	Invest in improved data systems for identifying eligible students. Dedicate human resources to data analysis and tutor training.	Schools can make data-driven decisions on flagging eligibility for tutoring, with special attention toward populations with the largest academic opportunity gaps.