

National Student Support Accelerator

The National Student Support Accelerator’s vision is that all K-12 students will have access to high-impact tutoring* to accelerate their academic success. Started by a diverse group of over 20 national education leaders that came together early in the pandemic to address student learning needs caused by COVID-19, the Accelerator will provide the tools and networking opportunities to incent and support education organizations to adopt high-impact tutoring at scale — addressing COVID-19-related learning loss as well as supporting academic success in the long term.

While high-impact tutoring has proven to be a successful academic intervention, cost and access have limited its reach. The Working Group’s shared vision is that all students in need will have access to high-impact tutoring to support their academic success in the wake of COVID-19 and beyond. Potential tutors may be drawn from the ranks of the highly-skilled workers who are currently unemployed and underemployed; tapping into this workforce provides an opportunity to scale high-impact tutoring, and also supports tutors in building skills that may potentially lead to their future employment in the education field.

Several sources have provided funding for developmental projects to establish the foundation for this vision: the plan for a new organization to support educational institutions and tutoring organizations in bringing high-impact tutoring to scale; tools to ensure efforts are highly effective and easily replicable; a continuous learning agenda to improve our understanding of high-impact tutoring; and models for scaling successful efforts. Specifically, these projects include:

- A business plan to launch **the new National Student Support Accelerator** to centralize tutoring resources and tools to improve and expand tutoring programs, build a network of tutoring organizations and educational systems interested in implementing high-impact tutoring, set a continuous learning research agenda, and potentially develop a means to credential tutoring programs based on evidence-based practices.
- **Tools and research** to support organizations that are launching new or improving existing tutoring programs:
 - A toolkit that identifies models of high-impact tutoring and provides supporting information and tools for assessing program quality and high-quality implementation
 - A financial modeling tool to calculate tutoring costs given varying assumptions
 - A university-based tutoring program toolkit focused on how to create high-impact tutoring programs using university students as tutors.
- A **continuous learning research agenda** including a minimum of six **tutoring test sites** to test models for efficacy and better understand barriers to effective implementation, potential for expansion and sustainability, and drivers of success.
- **Models for scaling** successful programs including assessments of the feasibility of recruiting and training the unemployed and underemployed to become tutors and of potential approaches for funding tutoring at scale in the long run.

During this developmental stage, the Annenberg Institute and an Advisory Board of national education leaders are leading this project. This stage is anticipated to be complete in December with the new organization moving efforts forward in January.

*High-impact tutoring is a form of one-on-one or small group teaching that leads to substantial learning gains by supplementing (not replacing) students’ classroom experiences.