

Voorhees Township Public Schools proudly announces its selection to receive the competitive High Impact Tutoring Grant awarded by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).

On November 3, 2023, the NJDOE announced approximately \$41 million in preliminary grant awards for the implementation of High Impact Tutoring in approximately 240 New Jersey school districts. This initiative aims to implement highly effective, evidence-based strategies that promote learning acceleration among third and fourth-grade students. According to the NJDOE, High Impact Tutoring is designed to enable school districts, charter schools, and renaissance school projects to collaborate with educational service vendors, nonprofit organizations, and colleges and universities. The goal is to provide tutoring services at scale and offer educational assistance to students.

Voorhees has been granted \$229,295.00 for the 2023-2024 school year. Our proposed project involves establishing an in-person tutoring program tailored to third and fourth-grade students. Selection is based on iReady scores and NJSLA results (for current fourth-grade students). The program will encompass approximately 91 third-grade students and 96 fourth-grade students from four elementary schools who will receive tutoring three days per week, with a planned summer component.

The district will collaborate with a vendor selected through the Competitive Contract Request for Proposal (CC-RFP) process to deliver a highly effective tutoring service through a combined push-in/pull-out model. Tutors will integrate themselves into English Language Arts classrooms to assist identified students during small group instruction sessions and will also pull out students to provide instructional scaffolding aimed at helping them meet grade-level expectations.

The vendor will utilize both the district's curriculum, aligned with state standards, and its own research-based curriculum.

To monitor student progress, two progress monitoring tools will be employed. The first tool is iReady, the district's chosen progress monitoring tool. The second tool will be the vendor's diagnostic assessment, administered as a baseline assessment and year-end diagnostic.

The tutors engaged in this program will be highly qualified subject matter experts, collaborating with classroom teachers, basic skills teachers, and reading specialists to pinpoint areas where students require additional support. They will then craft personalized instruction plans tailored to each child's unique needs and learning style.

Reading fluency, a vital aspect of the program, greatly influences reading comprehension. When students read with speed, accuracy, and appropriate expression, they are more likely to comprehend and retain the material.

Vocabulary development is another critical element of the program. A robust vocabulary enables students to grasp the meanings of words and phrases they encounter in their reading materials, better equipping them to comprehend complex texts and establish connections between ideas.

Comprehension stands as the cornerstone of our reading program. Effective comprehension allows students to fully engage with the material and retain the information they have read.

A summer program is planned for students, continuing the focus on reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

We are excited to receive this competitive grant and look forward to its positive impact on the academic achievement of our students.