Tutoring with TN ALL Corps
FY23 FAQs

Overview

Students across the state had varying access to instruction in spring 2020 and throughout the 2020-21 school year. This may have resulted in lower proficiency across the state, specifically in math and in early reading. This impacted low-income students, those with disabilities, and English learners more than other students, and widened existing achievement gaps as students who were already not proficient were more likely to see grade level mastery decline over this 18-month period.

Through a grant matching program, TN ALL Corps is available to both school districts and community partners. Combining funding that is available at the state, district, and community levels, Tennessee can dramatically increase the amount of learning time children have access to—helping to mitigate learning loss and accelerate student achievement.

This document provides updated guidance and responses to frequently asked questions for districts participating in TN ALL Corps high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring during FY23. For more guidance and information on TN ALL Corps, please visit https://www.tn.gov/education/top-links/tn-all-corps.html.

Students Served

How should districts decide which students should receive tutoring supports?

Each district has a unique set of data and must prioritize students within the context of the district's vision for high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring and within the structure of the district's TN ALL Corps model. The **student selection protocol** provides guidance to help districts prioritize at-risk students in grades 1 through 4, districts should first use universal screening data to identify those students who need further screening and support through RTI[2]. Then, districts should prioritize students who do not meet the RTI[2] thresholds, but still are categorized at-risk. Districts should continue to serve a student's intervention needs in one content area at a time and continue to use students' attendance records in making ultimate tutoring placements.

How should districts exit students from TN ALL Corps?

Each district has a specific capacity for serving students through the TN ALL Corps tutoring. Students should spend a full year in tutoring, with at least 12 weeks in a single content area, to receive the highest benefit. If a student's progress monitoring data consistently shows that a student is on track and no longer at-risk, then a district **may** consider exiting a student from a tutoring program. In addition, a district may consider exiting a student after twelve weeks, if a student demonstrates chronic absenteeism. A district should always ensure that it fills the seats it committed to in its' ePlan budget.

My district is providing TN ALL Corps tutoring and we have a community partner also providing TN ALL Corps tutoring. Can we serve the same students through district and community partner tutoring programs?

Students may only receive tutoring in one content area and from one source at a time. Students may be served by the district one semester and by the community partner a different semester but may not be served by both the district and community partner at the same time.

Progress Monitoring

What progress monitoring is required for ELA in Grades 1-4?

A district should use their state-approved universal reading screener and follow the state's mandated universal reading schedule **here**. This data collected will represent the TN ALL Corps-required progress monitoring for the state department. In addition, the district should progress monitor all TN ALL Corps students monthly using appropriate probes and sub tests within the district's state-approved universal reading screener.

What progress monitoring is required for ELA in Grades 5-8?

Districts will use locally adopted standards-based benchmarks to progress monitor students monthly if they are receiving tutoring in grade 5 through 8 ELA. This data should be tracked and submitted through the state's SFTP at the end of each semester.

What progress monitoring is required for math in Grades 1-8?

A district must progress monitor mathematics monthly using Zearn. Instead of having a separate progress monitoring assessment, a student must complete three Zearn sessions each month to adequately track progress.

Do districts need to conduct monthly progress monitoring in ELA to monitor tutoring progress?

Districts should monitor students' early literacy progress closely. Depending on the need, districts should monitor every 4.5 weeks and track progress monitoring through internal RTI2 processes.

Tutoring Resources

How can I explore Zearn prior to starting with my students?

Districts may login to a demo account to explore and understand how Zearn works. This account will not allow districts to roster or tutor students. Districts can login to https://www.zearn.org/ using username TNDemo@zearn.org and password TNDemo2022!.

How will students be rostered for tutoring in Zearn?

For the 2022-23 school year, all students will be rostered to their school by the state. Students are rostered to a school administrator such as an assistant principal, curriculum supervisor, or other position depending on the structure of the school. The school administrator can then organize students into tutoring groups.

Our district has a new student to tutoring. Do we need to add them to Zearn?

No, for the 2022-2023 school year, the state is working closely with Zearn to do frequent roster updates. It may take up to a week for a student to show in a school Zearn account. Schools will not need to add any students to Zearn.

A student has a Zearn free account. Can they use this account instead of the state-created Zean account?

No, all students must use the state-created Zearn accounts. This allows schools and districts to receive accurate data reports and monitor the progress of each student. Unfortunately, free accounts cannot be merged into the state-created Zearn account.

How can district administrators get access to their state-created Zearn account?

District administrators need to contact the Zearn helpdesk at support@zearn.org to set up their district administrator account.

How can my tutors get access to their state-created Zearn account?

District administrators are able to create and set up tutors with Zearn accounts.

Tutor Preparation

How must tutors be trained?

All high-dosage, low-ratio tutors that are not currently employed as full-time teachers in the district should complete this training. TN ALL Corps tutors must complete a TN ALL Corps tutor training course to learn more about tutoring and to succeed as a tutor. Throughout the 5-module course, aspiring and alternative educators will learn everything from the basics of tutoring to academic best practices.

The TN ALL Corps tutor training modules can be completed in 3 – 5 hours and will provide a basic overview of TN ALL Corps high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring. The tutor training modules and more information can be found **here**.

The only exception to completing this training is if an educator with an active license is providing tutoring.

Can districts provide additional training to tutors?

Districts should always ensure that tutors are effectively prepared to work in their schools. The department strongly recommends that tutors go through similar orientations as new teachers and have an additional training that acclimates tutors to the district's TN ALL Corps program including tutor session expectations, instructional materials orientation, student attendance and progress monitor tracking and any other district specific protocols.

Fiscal Expectations

Where can I learn more about allowable expenses under the TN ALL Corps grant?

The **TN ALL Corps Technical Guidance** and the **TN ALL Corps Recommended Account Codes** documents provide an overview of allowable expenses and common codes.

As local match and TN ALL Corps state funds are being spent, do items need to be split by local match and state funds?

No, districts may choose to charge some expenses to the state budget and some to the local match. All items don't need to be split between the two sources of funds.

Will any funds be eligible for carryforward at the end of the 2022-2023 school year?

Yes, 10% of district's 2022-2023 state allocation will be eligible for carryforward from the 2022-2023 school year into the 2023-2024 school year. Carryforward will be indicated on a district's Final Expenditure Report (FER).

For additional guidance from the 2021-22 school year, please see the original TN ALL Corps FAQ: https://bestforall.tnedu.gov/sites/default/files/documents/TN%20ALL%20Corps%20FAQs.pdf.