



Exemplary Districts and Community Partnerships



INTRODUCTION

To address learning gaps and accelerate student achievement across the state of Tennessee, the department launched the **TN Accelerating Literacy and Learning Corps (TN ALL Corps)**, *a grant opportunity to empower school districts across the state to implement or strengthen robust tutoring programs for students.*

There are currently 87 districts across Tennessee participating in TN ALL Corps, representing over 200,000 students served between 2021 and 2024. Using a research-based model, each participating district has committed to following a high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring model to accelerate student achievement. High-dosage, low-ratio tutoring consists of intensive tutoring that occurs in very small groups (1:3 in grades 1-5 / 1:4 ratios in grades 6-8) two to three times per week, to help students accelerate their learning in an individualized manner within the subjects of literacy or math.

Learn more about TN ALL Corps at tn.gov/top-links/tn-all-corps.

THE TN ALL CORPUS MODEL



DISTRICTS...

MAY CHOOSE which students/grades to serve

MUST SERVE students in grades **1-5**



1:4 MAX RATIO **MAY CHOOSE TO SERVE** students in grades **6-8**



Contributions per tutored student per year...



TDOE
\$700

DISTRICT
\$800

CONTENT MUST FOCUS ON READING OR MATH for an entire semester*

30-45 MINUTE SESSIONS

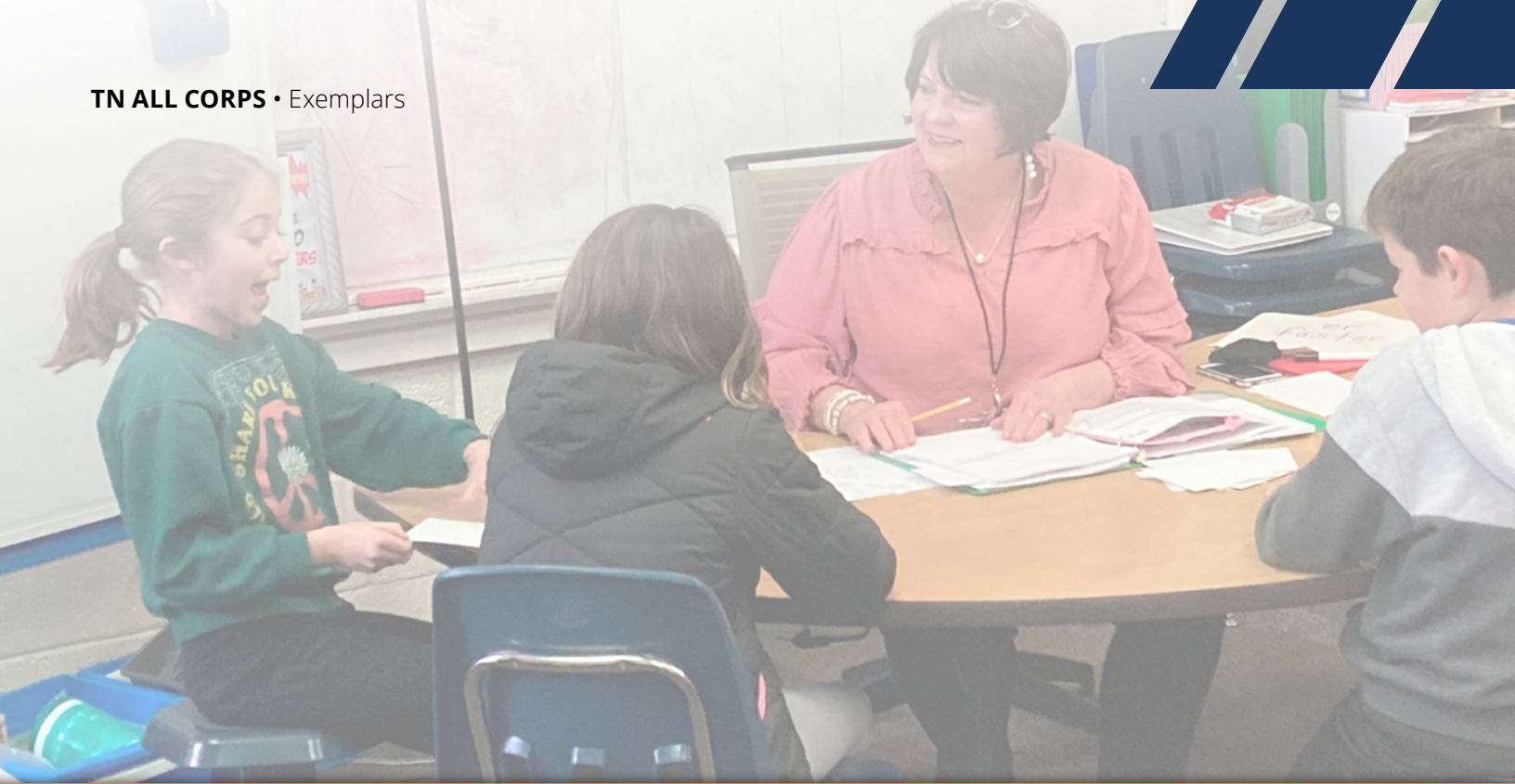
2-3 SESSIONS PER WEEK

*Review student data & may choose to change the focus of the content after each semester, but students must be served for a full year.

Data collection + reporting requirements consistent with what is required in ESSER.

The following districts are exemplars of the initial grant funding for the TN ALL Corps Program.





FUNDING FOR TUTORING PROGRAMS

Districts are using grant funding to pay for part-time and full-time teachers, education assistants, personal development for teachers, and instructional materials. Budgeting for more tutors makes up the majority of spending and this tactic is seen across the state. The rest of funding has been invested for new printers and resources needed for high-quality materials to make their way into students' hands.

BEST PRACTICE'S SEEN BY DISTRICTS



Cocke County Schools found that providing intensive professional development and cross training tutors on both math and ELA have been effective. Their tutors often will switch roles at the end of a semester, moving from ELA to math so their schools can rely on the flexibility to place them where the student data indicates additional focus is needed. Cocke County Schools uses strong materials and support to ensure that tutors have all the resources needed. One of the hallmarks of their success is the strong relationships built with students through the 1:3 tutor to student sessions.

*“Salaries for tutors are the largest portion of our budget, as we believe that is where the difference with students happens. **Hiring people who care about students, training them well, and offering continuous support through job-embedded professional development helps to ensure the success of the program structure.**”*

- DR. AMANDA WAITS

Instructional Supervisor,
Cocke County Schools



Germantown Municipal Schools focused on using retired or part-time educators to staff during the day tutor sessions and teachers for after school tutoring sessions. These educators have strong instructional backgrounds and can adapt tutor sessions to student needs and support challenges students may be having inside and outside the classroom. Additionally, the tutors have strong collaborative connections with teachers to ensure seamless programming between classroom instruction and tutoring.

*“Through this intentional, highly focused tutoring program, our students made noteworthy gains in their reading and math achievement levels. The design of high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring allowed our part-time tutors to work with our teachers to best meet students where they are. **This partnership sets students up for greater success to accelerate their learning.**”*

- MISSY ABEL, Assistant Superintendent, Germantown Municipal Schools



Elizabethton City Schools has focused on accelerating learning at each grade level. Tutors use on-grade level content, and progress-monitor grade level standards and skills that may still need to be mastered. The district closely connects tutoring sessions to classroom instruction by using extensions from their adopted curricular materials in their tutoring session. In addition, their early grades students have a clear sounds-first approach to tutoring.



*“TN ALL Corps has made a positive impact on our students’ learning since implementing the high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring model. **61% of our students who received intensive standards-specific ELA tutoring obtained a year or more growth as measured by TVAAS on the ELA TCAP.** We are thankful to have this opportunity to provide our students with additional support to accelerate their learning, close learning gaps, and increase proficiency.”*

- MYRA NEWMAN, Assistant Superintendent, Elizabethton City Schools



Lenoir City Schools has created a “power up” block during the school day that allows for tutoring, language development, and RTI2 to occur at the same time. This model has created more opportunities for student acceleration and smaller learning groups for every student in the school. Lenoir City Schools focuses on hiring retired educators and parents who want to support their school community. The tutors are supported by instructional coaches, and all materials are closely aligned with daily instruction. In addition, students have manipulatives and resources to support their learning during the tutoring sessions.

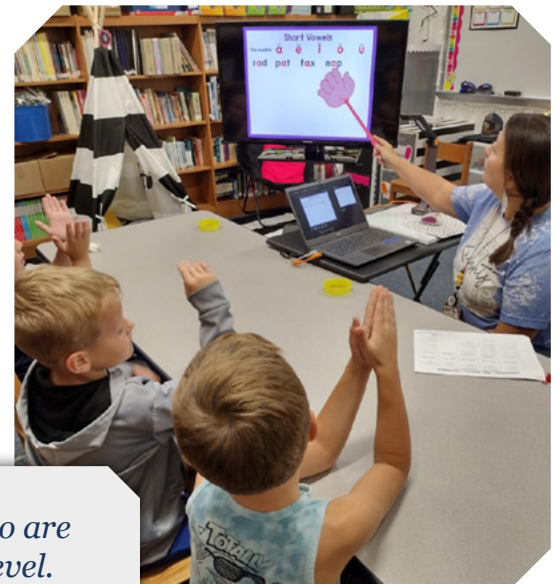


*“Looking back over the last year, **taking time to thoroughly train our tutoring staff has led to the successes we have seen through TN ALL Corps.** I also believe taking time on the front end to communicate the vision and goals of this initiative with our school staff has helped develop a great buy-in for all members involved.”*

- SHAWN WALKER, Student Success Coordinator, Lenoir City Schools



Cheatham County Schools has observed the collaboration between tutors and teachers to ensure tutoring aligns to standards being covered in classrooms, data driven decisions are made based on multiple sources, and parental support and involvement is incorporated to increase student success in the program. Cheatham County Schools also uses retired educators and new-to-teaching educators to serve as tutors. Additionally, tutors use Zearn and math manipulatives to tailor tutoring sessions to students’ learning styles.



*“We have never had a program like this. It identifies kids who are almost there. It quickly gives them the boost to be on grade level. **I wish we could have all of our students participate in TN ALL Corps.**”*

-KATIE ARNOLD, TN ALL Corps Coordinator, Cheatham County Schools



Union County Schools has their full-time teaching staff tutor students before and after school. The district has seen how the low teacher to student ratio has been a gamechanger. Teachers are not just choosing students in their classrooms to tutor. Teachers are having real conversations with students, using qualitative and quantitative data to inform decision making, communicating with families, and investing in not just their classroom students, but ALL students in the district.

“TN ALL Corp has been a game-changer for our students. Our students who attend before- and after-school tutoring have built confidence, skills, and relationships with their tutors. This combination has resulted in increased achievement as measured through our formative and summative assessments.”

- DR. JAMES CARTER, Director of Schools, Union County Schools



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

In June, the department announced the expansion of TN ALL Corps to five community partners around the state. These partners will follow the state’s high-dosage, low-ratio model for tutoring within their local programs and adds an additional 20,000 seats for at-risk students.

The following community partners are exemplars of the TN ALL CORPS partner grants.



United Way
of Greater Nashville



United Way
of Greater Knoxville



United Way
of Greater Chattanooga

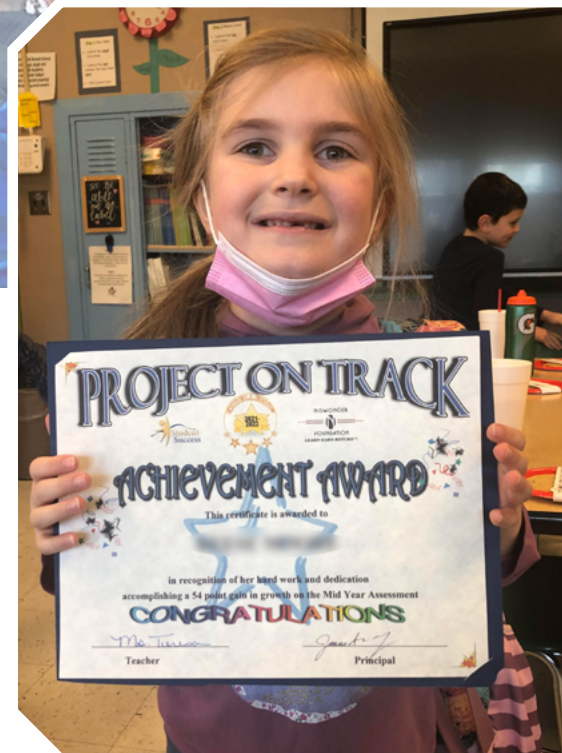




NISWONGER FOUNDATION

The Niswonger Foundation, in Northeast Tennessee, continues to find ways to remain involved in public education in Tennessee. Nearly two-thirds of their total budget supports tutor hours, including instructional delivery, training, and planning. Staff members include literacy and mathematics curriculum specialists, a software solutions specialist, and a finance director. Two communications and data specialists also commit most of their time to linking district partners, site coordinators, and tutors to pertinent and relevant information. These specialists gather information and statistics regarding student enrollment and attendance, benchmark assessments, progress monitoring results, district-administered assessment results, and stakeholder survey results. There is also a trauma-informed care specialist that serves tutors by helping them understand how trauma affects behavior in students and how to respond appropriately to trauma-induced behaviors. Joining the project's team is a family outreach/engagement specialist who develops opportunities for family members to be involved in the tutoring process with their child.

Besides the many staffing needs, a significant amount of funding is designated to provide "take home" resources for families. Literacy students will receive six books each year. For students receiving tutoring in math, grade-level manipulatives are provided allowing for practice at home. Both the books and the math manipulatives are for students to keep.



*“The Niswonger Foundation is proud to partner with the Tennessee Department of Education in this tremendously important work. **We are definitely seeing the power and importance of uniting in this challenge to ensure that every student has the opportunity to be successful in English language arts and mathematics. Our children deserve nothing less.**”*

- DR. NANCY DISHNER
President and CEO,
Niswonger Foundation



LITERACY MID-SOUTH

For nearly 50 years, Literacy Mid-South (LMS) has been providing literacy services and resources to learners of all ages in Memphis. Drawing on this deep history, LMS will ensure families and communities are engaged and empowered to play an integral role in the success of this program and students' ongoing development and academic success.

Through this funding, LMS will be serving 3,000 1st-3rd grade students through in-person, ELA tutoring during the day for the next four semesters. This will provide a powerful intervention for Memphis-Shelby County Schools' students to get back on track after learning loss associated with the pandemic.

While LMS is still in the initial implementation process of the TN ALL Corps program, they have seen significant success in engaging individuals across Memphis in this opportunity to support students' reading development. Best practices have included structuring and marketing employment opportunities to ensure individuals from the communities served by the program are included as tutors.



*“All students within the Memphis-Shelby County School District deserve the **customized, one-on-one coaching that only the TN ALL Corps tutoring program can provide students** as they move successfully through the system and integrate into our communities.”*

- MICHAEL KING
TN ALL Corps
Program Director,
Literacy Mid-South

*“The TN ALL grant will help ensure community organizations can **provide students with additional support to overcome academic challenges and attain the skills for reading well at proficient levels.**”*

- SONYA JOHNSON
Education Initiatives Manager,
United Way of Greater Nashville



United Way
of Greater Nashville

UNITED WAY OF GREATER NASHVILLE

The United Way of Greater Nashville Tutoring Collaborative initiative will use the TN ALL Corps grant funding to support Robertson County Schools, Williamson County Schools, and Franklin Special School District, plus Community-Based Organizations in Wilson County to improve literacy skills among 1st -5th students reading below their grade-level. Their goal is to help students accelerate learning and increase their engagement in school.

United Way's Raise Your Hand initiatives recruits volunteer tutors which has reduced larger class sizes and proven to increase student achievement and build stronger momentum among teachers. The initiative has a unique design that aligns with the districts' goals to work with certified teachers and create impactful lessons. Tutors develop positive relationships with students which boost their confidence and engagement during the school day.

