



The Fulton County, GA, Elementary ELA HDT Program

Total students served in 2023-2024: 258 across 7 PLI study schools

OVERVIEW: In-person ELA tutoring was delivered during the school day (small-group instruction, independent work time, or scheduled intervention periods) outside of the main classroom. Students worked on school-selected materials as well as the Lightning Squad digital platform, assisted by tutors.

AMOUNT OF TUTORING: Students were intended to receive 120 minutes of tutoring per week. On average, they received about 9 hours over the school year, 14 percent of the intended amount (probably an underestimate, see appendix).

COST: Thirty weeks of this program are estimated to cost \$2,750 per student, including all program resources, not limited to vendor fees.

UNIQUE FEATURES:

- Schools had autonomy to select the tutoring vendor from an approved list of vendors and could opt into or out of the Lightning Squad program.
- Some schools used paraprofessionals who were at the school for the full school day and who fulfilled other roles when not tutoring, such as assisting in classrooms or lunch monitor or bus duty.

PROGRAM AS DESIGNED			PROGRAM AS IMPLEMENTED	
The intended program design articulated by school systems and the study team before the program launched			Findings on how the program was actually delivered in PLI study schools in 2023-2024	
Student-to-tutor ratio	Max number of students per group	4	Number of students typically assigned to groups	4
Amount of tutoring	Designed minutes per session	30	Typically offered minutes per session	15-30
	Designed sessions per week	4	Offered sessions per week	4-5
	Span in which the program was expected to occur	Aug./Sept.-April	Actual span in which the program was offered	Oct.-April (17-22 weeks)
	Designed number of sessions per year	120	Average number of sessions students received	17
	Designed minutes of tutoring per year	3,600	Average number of minutes each student received	521

PROGRAM AS DESIGNED			PROGRAM AS IMPLEMENTED	
The intended program design articulated by school systems and the study team before the program launched			Findings on how the program was actually delivered in PLI study schools in 2023-2024	
Setting	Designed time during the school day for tutoring	Intervention period or small group instruction	When in the school day tutoring was typically scheduled	Varied, during classroom small group instruction or independent work, or scheduled intervention time
	Designed to be in person or virtual	In person	Offered in person or virtually	In person
	Designed classroom format	Pull-out	Implemented classroom format	Pull-out
Materials	Designed integration of a computer-assisted learning platform	Lightning Squad or iReady during a tutoring session	Offered integration of a computer-assisted learning platform	Lightning Squad and other platforms (varied by school). When using Lightning Squad, students worked in pairs based on current learning goals while the tutor monitored and supported.
	Designed instructional materials	Lightning Squad, iReady, or school-selected materials	Offered instructional materials	Lightning Squad, iReady, or school-selected materials
Tutor staffing	Designed tutor workforce strategy	Vendor-hired tutors or paraprofessionals	Implemented tutor workforce details	73% of tutors reported having a BA or above and 73% reported 2 or more years of experience in education. Tutors typically reported receiving 7 hours of training.
			30-week cost as offered, per student	\$2,750

SOURCES: 2023-2024 school year interviews with school coordinators, surveys of tutors and coordinators, administrative data on enrollment and attendance, site visit and observation notes, program documents, and interviews with study site teams. Costs are in 2023 USD.