



ITI INSIGHTS

WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR



We are thrilled to introduce our new ITI Insights Newsletter. We are excited to share news about what is happening throughout Illinois through the Illinois Tutoring Initiative. In this newsletter, you'll get the latest ITI announcements, updates, opportunities, highlights, training, and research. Thank you for joining us as we create confident learners through high-impact tutoring!



- Dr. Christy Boarders, Director Illinois Tutoring Initiative

ITI PARTNER'S WITH PEARL TO DELIVER HIGH-IMPACT TUTORING

We are excited to partner with Pearl, the research-backed tutor intelligence platform, for a large new expansion of the Illinois Tutoring Initiative (ITI).

With leadership from Illinois State University (ISU), in partnership with Pearl's tutor management resources and data capabilities, and with funding from the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (APR ESSER), the statewide tutoring initiative is on-target to reach approximately 8,500 students in grades 3-12, over a two-year period, with both in-person and online tutoring. With the support of Pearl, ITI plans to expand from the seven districts served over spring and summer to nearly 60 during the '22-'23 school year!

"This is a highly strategic and thoughtful deployment of sustainable tutoring, with benefits for students and future teachers, and we are honored to support ITI's innovative approach," said John Failla, Founder and CEO of Pearl. "The ITI is a national model for meeting emerging and ongoing needs in education such as educating more dedicated teachers with great experience, while addressing the critical learning gaps exposed and accelerated by the pandemic to better serve students, statewide."



ITI - MAKING A DIFFERENCE ACROSS ILLINOIS SCHOOLS TUTORS STUDENTS

ITI is designed around strategic partnerships with local school districts that were disproportionately impacted by COVID, have high percentages of students and families with low-income, and have low funding adequacy.

ITI is currently partnered with 41 districts and is serving students in 84 schools!

Tutors are essential stakeholders in our vision. Our tutors are required to complete core training models such as high-impact and culturally relevant tutoring, and how to engage all types of learners.

ITI currently employs 403 tutors!

ITI serves a diverse range of students in grades 3-8 for math and reading as well as high school math. Students work 1:1 with a tutor or in small groups - based on individual needs.

ITI currently serves 1,183 students!



TUTOR SPOTLIGHT

BECKY COURTNEY

A student of mine “L” who is new to our district started the year a little behind where my classroom currently was. She was hesitant to answer questions in class and was a little negative about her math skills. L was matched with Becky Courtney a community member with older children. Within the first couple of weeks L began entering the classroom so excited. She couldn’t stop talking about Becky and how she was the best tutor. She told anyone who would listen.

Becky is a wonderful woman who is incredibly thoughtful. She seldom shows up without something for her girls. Hot cocoa packets, locker magnets, etc. She found small laminated conversion charts and divisibility rules charts, etc. that she gave to her students. L took these gifts to heart and showed up one day with a math binder that she had created beginning with the items Becky had given her. I’m not in any way saying that tutors need to constantly buy things for their students, it is the thoughtful things that I want to point out.

We are only 8 weeks into school and L has already made incredible progress. Her demeanor and attitude toward math has completely changed. Her confidence is growing! She is excited to answer questions and volunteers to explain to others what she understands. I just wanted to let you know that what the tutors are doing with our students is having a major impact! Keep it up Becky!

~From Student’s Teacher



TUTOR CHECKLIST

It's All About Relationships!

Relationship building is demonstrated through expressing empathy, positive regard, and/or genuineness during sessions.

Let's Focus on Empathy:

Statements that show your empathy include (1) communicating caring, (2) understanding students' experiences, (3) thinking in the student's perspective, and (4) feeling the student' emotions (Garcia et al., 2013)

Examples:

- Would/could you tell me a little more?
- Can you tell me what you need right now?
- Is there anything else you'd like to share?
- Would you like my help in figuring this out?
- "I know, it's very hard to work on this task."
- "You had a long day and are still working so hard. Thank you for all your hard work!"

REMINDERS

- Check message center
- Check notifications
- Check missing surveys
- Recommend tutor spotlights
- Attend online collaborative planning

RECOMMEND TUTOR SPOTLIGHTS: 



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<https://www.facebook.com/ILTutoringInitiative>

MONTHLY MOTIVATION

Every child deserves a champion — an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be. - Rita Pierson