

# FIGHTING COVID LEARNING LOSS

TENNESSEE  
TUTORING  
CORPS



## Helping Tennessee students recover COVID learning losses and prepare for success in the 2021-22 academic year

Months of remote instruction and school closures due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have limited students' learning opportunities throughout 2020 and into 2021. As a result, **parents and education leaders have concerns about sweeping learning losses for K-12 students, particularly among the youngest and most vulnerable children.**



In a normal year, on average, students lose at least a month worth of school-year learning over the summer (the "summer slide"), and declines are often more drastic in math than in reading. However, **education disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have worsened learning losses for K-12 students.**



Data released in February 2021 shows the **greatest learning losses among first and second grade students in reading**; according to *Hechinger Report*, "40 percent of first grade students and 35 percent of second grade students are 'significantly at risk' of needing intensive intervention compared to 27 percent and 29 percent last year."



Recent research confirms widespread learning losses are exaggerating racial and socioeconomic disparities, with **Hispanic and Black kindergarten and first grade students falling further behind** than their White peers.

## Renewing & Expanding The Tennessee Tutoring Corps in 2021

After launching a successful pilot in 2020 that engaged 431 tutors and over 2,000 students, the Bill and Crissy Haslam Foundation, in partnership with youth-serving organizations across the state of Tennessee, has renewed the Tennessee Tutoring Corps to ensure additional learning opportunities in key communities in Summer 2021.

The Tennessee Tutoring Corps was developed to help slow the "summer slide" and address COVID learning losses by connecting **qualified college students with children to provide tutoring in key subjects, including math and reading.**

Results from the 2020 pilot showed participating students made noticeable academic gains over the course of the summer tutoring programs:

- Students who participated in the 2020 Tennessee Tutoring Corps were assessed both before and after participating in 7 to 8 weeks of tutoring.
- Across all grades and subjects, the average national percentile rank increased from the pretest to the posttest with the largest gains seen in grades K-2 and in math.
- **On average, students in K-2 demonstrated the equivalent of a third of a year of academic growth.**
- Across all grades and in both ELA and math, students who scored lower on the pretest had greater average growth over the course of the program.

In addition, when asked to indicate ways participating in TTC 2020 impacted them, 85% of tutors reported building a meaningful relationship with a student. Furthermore, nearly all tutors (98%) from 2020 said they would recommend the Corps experience to other college students.



## Why Tutoring Matters

Education experts have identified “high-dosage tutoring”, defined as **one-on-one or small group tutoring that takes place at least three times a week**, as an **effective strategy to reduce COVID learning losses and help students get back on track**.

Recognizing the value of supplemental learning opportunities and seeing the success last summer, Tennessee Tutoring Corps is **expanding in 2021**.

The Corps will now be active in additional counties and will **work with more youth-serving organizations**, including charter schools, YMCAs, and Boys and Girls Clubs. This year’s program will focus attention on **rising 1st through 4th grade students who are more likely to fall behind due to COVID learning losses**.

## Become A Tutor: Engaging Qualified College Students

The Tennessee Tutoring Corps plans to recruit at least **1,000 qualified college students** who are eager to give back to their community and help children continue their education over the summer months.

Additionally, **recognizing that many college students are also experiencing financial strain** or loss of employment or internship opportunities due to the ongoing pandemic, **tutors will be compensated** with a \$1,000 stipend for their work through the duration of the summer program.

To become a tutor, college students must pass a background check and confirm their current enrollment in a postsecondary institution. Preference will be given to applicants who have a 3.0 GPA or higher, reside in Tennessee, and are rising sophomores, juniors, or seniors in college as well as those who are in their first year out of college.

**Interested candidates can submit an application and an unofficial transcript on our website at [TNTutoringCorps.org](https://TNTutoringCorps.org).**

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