

Executive Summary: PPS PAC Investments Supported by Office of Teaching & Learning

Goal 1: Increase 3rd Grade Reading Scores by Offering High Impact Tutoring in Grades K-3

Cost: \$256,666.64 per year

Overview:

To ensure early literacy success, PPS aims to establish a structured, research-based High Impact Tutoring model in eight elementary schools, prioritizing K-3 students who require targeted intervention. This program will provide **intensive, systematic, and relationship-based instruction** to students needing additional literacy support.

This program includes:

- **16 Reading Support EAs:** Limited-term, part-time staff providing individualized and small-group tutoring.
- **2 LT Lead Teachers:** Providing comprehensive training, coaching, and instructional oversight to ensure high-quality tutoring.
- **192 student tutoring seats:** Ensuring a significant impact on foundational literacy.

This model aligns with national and local best practices for High Impact Tutoring, integrating:

- Frequent, consistent tutoring sessions
- Strong student-tutor relationships
- Data-driven, skill-based interventions
- Alignment with PPS literacy curriculum and instructional priorities

Expected Outcomes and Impact

High Impact Tutoring is a proven strategy that delivers measurable benefits for students, staff, and schools. By funding this initiative, the foundation will directly contribute to:

✓ **Accelerated Student Learning:** Research shows that Impact Tutoring significantly improves literacy achievement, particularly for early learners. [High Impact Tutoring Benefit One Pager](#)

✓ **Increased Student Attendance:** Engaged students with strong tutor relationships are more likely to attend school regularly. [Impact on Student Attendance](#)

✓ **Increased Staff Capacity:** Paraprofessionals receive training in literacy instruction, strengthening PPS's educational workforce. [Paraprofessionals as Tutors](#)

✓ **Schoolwide Support for Improved Outcomes:** By addressing unfinished learning in early grades, this initiative helps ensure long-term academic success. 2024-25 [High Impact Tutoring Implementation & Outcome Presentation](#)

Why This Investment Matters

Foundational literacy is a critical predictor of future academic achievement. With PPS committed to educational equity, this program will provide much-needed support to students disproportionately affected by unfinished learning. This initiative benefits students and strengthens our ability to provide high-quality literacy instruction systemwide.

Goal 2: Increase Middle School Literacy Readiness • Investment: Ignite High Impact Tutoring for 5th Grade

Cost: \$1,200 per student/year; ~\$360,000 (all demonstrated need), ~\$180,000 (highest needs only)

Overview: Ignite Reading provides one-to-one, online tutoring grounded in the Science of Reading, focusing on foundational literacy skills to rapidly close decoding gaps. Daily 15-minute sessions with highly trained tutors ensure personalized instruction.

Impact:

[A study](#) of 1,872 1st graders across 13 Massachusetts public school districts, 64% of whom were reading well below grade level showed:

- 213% increase in students reaching benchmark levels;
- 55% decrease in students requiring intensive intervention;
- Students gained an additional 5.4 months of learning compared to national averages; and
- Notable improvements across diverse populations, including English learners and students with IEPs.

More Information: [Ignite Tutoring Website](#) • [Demo Video](#) • [High Impact Tutoring Research](#)

Goal 3: Increase Success in H.S. Algebra & Graduation Rates • Investment: IXL Digital Platform

Cost: \$10 per student/year; ~\$70,000 (all 9th & 10th grade), \$35,000 (single grade level)

Overview: IXL provides a suite of PPS adopted curriculum-aligned adaptive digital mathematics support, individualized skill practice, and real-time skill assessments designed to bolster algebra proficiency, improvements in graduation rates, and post secondary readiness.

Impact:

- Higher proficiency rates in Algebra I, approximately 4 percentage points above comparison groups.
- Students reaching proficiency in one additional IXL Math skill per week increased proficiency rates by nearly 12 percentage points.
- Schools utilizing IXL Math had graduation rates approximately 2.5 percentage points higher than those not using IXL.
- Significant improvements in student math self-efficacy, fostering greater interest and confidence.

More Information: [IXL Learning](#) • [Demo Video](#) • [Additional Research](#)