

Need Help Finding a Tutor?

Dear Student,

In your Universal Encouragement Program guidance survey, you indicated an interest in finding a tutor for one or more subjects.

A tutor can help you understand difficult material, practice skills, and become more confident working independently. You do not have to wait until you are failing a class to ask for help. Tutoring can also be useful when you have missed lessons, are preparing for a test, or want additional challenges.

Start by identifying the help you need.

Think about which subject or task is difficult. Do you need help understanding a concept, solving problems, reading assignments, writing papers, studying for tests, or organizing your work?

Bring a recent assignment, teacher feedback, or a list of questions when you ask for help. You do not need to know exactly what is wrong—your teacher or counselor can help you identify a starting point.

Look for support at school first.

Talk with your teacher about the material you find challenging. Ask whether extra help is available before school, after school, during a study period, or at another scheduled time.

Visit the counseling office to ask about school tutoring programs, peer tutors, homework clubs, and other academic support. Ask which options are free and how to participate.

Consider a study group.

A small group of classmates can help one another review lessons, practice problems, and prepare for tests. Choose students who will stay focused, set a goal for each meeting, and take turns explaining ideas.

A study group works best when everyone participates and completes their own assignments. If the whole group is confused about a topic, ask your teacher for clarification.

Check your public library and community organizations.

Ask your public library whether it offers homework help, tutoring, online learning resources, or referrals to local programs. Services vary, so check availability, age requirements, and whether you need a library card.

Community centers, youth programs, and other local organizations may also offer free or low-cost academic support. Your counselor can help you investigate.

Explore nearby colleges.

A nearby college may have a community tutoring program or college students who tutor younger students. With help from your counselor or a parent, guardian, or trusted adult, contact the college's tutoring center, education department, or the department related to your subject.

Ask whether the college coordinates or screens tutors, what tutoring costs, and whether the tutor has experience helping students in your grade.

Consider online tutoring when it fits your needs.

Online tutoring can be useful when transportation or scheduling makes in-person sessions difficult. Ask your school or library about available services before paying for a subscription.

Check whether the service provides live instruction or only written answers, whether tutors work with your age group and subject, and what technology you will need. A helpful tutor explains ideas and guides your practice so you can do the work yourself.

Choose a tutor who is a good match.

Before beginning, ask:

- Does the tutor understand the subject and the material taught in my class?
- Can the tutor explain ideas clearly and patiently?
- What will we work on, and how will we check my progress?
- Where and when will we meet?
- What does it cost, and are free or lower-cost options available?
- Can the tutor accommodate my learning, language, or accessibility needs?

If you are arranging tutoring outside school, involve a parent, guardian, or trusted adult in reviewing the tutor and choosing an appropriate meeting location or online arrangement. If cost, transportation, or internet access is a barrier, tell your counselor so we can explore options.

Make the most of each session.

Bring your class notes, assignments, textbook or course materials, and specific questions. Tell the tutor what you have already tried. Ask for explanations, practice the skill yourself, and summarize what you learned before the session ends.

Set a small goal, such as understanding fractions, organizing an essay, or preparing for a biology quiz. After a few sessions, consider whether you can explain the material and complete similar

tasks with less help. If the approach is not working, talk with the tutor, teacher, or counselor about an adjustment.

Ask for additional support when needed.

If difficulties continue despite practice and tutoring, let your teacher or counselor know. We can help explore whether you need a different learning approach, support with organization, or other school services.

Please make an appointment with the counseling office or speak with your teacher. Bring the learning topic that you want help with and, if possible, an example of a challenging assignment. Asking for help is a useful step toward becoming a stronger, more independent learner.

Sincerely,

Your Counselor