

K12 Tutoring Logic Model

Study Type: ESSA Evidence Level IV

Prepared for:
K12 Tutoring

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

K12 Tutoring engaged LearnPlatform by Instructure, a third-party edtech research company, to develop a logic model. LearnPlatform designed the logic model to satisfy Level IV requirements (*Demonstrates a Rationale*) according to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).¹

Logic Model

A logic model provides a program roadmap, detailing program inputs, participants reached, program activities, outputs, and outcomes. LearnPlatform collaborated with K12 Tutoring to develop and revise the logic model.

Study Design for K12 Tutoring Evaluation

Informed by the logic model, the next phase will focus on planning for an ESSA Level III study to examine the extent to which K12 Tutoring impacts desired student outcomes.

Conclusions

This study satisfies ESSA evidence requirements for Level IV (*Demonstrates a Rationale*). Specifically, this study met the following criteria for Level IV:

- ✓ Detailed logic model informed by previous, high-quality research
- ✓ Study planning and design is currently underway for an ESSA Level III study

¹ Level IV indicates that an intervention should include a “well-specified logic model that is informed by research or an evaluation that suggests how the intervention is likely to improve relevant outcomes; and an effort to study the effects of the intervention, that will happen as part of the intervention or is underway elsewhere...” (p. 9, U.S. Department of Education, 2016).

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Introduction

K12 Tutoring engaged LearnPlatform by Instructure, a third-party edtech research company, to develop a logic model. LearnPlatform designed the logic model to satisfy Level IV requirements (*Demonstrates a Rationale*) according to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The study had the following objectives:

1. Define the K12 Tutoring logic model and foundational research base.
2. Draft an ESSA III study design.

Previous Research. Across the United States, student learning loss has been an ongoing issue for decades, which was only exacerbated by COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns and school closures. Dorn and colleagues (2021) investigated the outcomes of what they referred to as "unfinished learning" that emerged due to COVID-19. They found that, on average, students were five months behind in math and four months behind in reading compared to where they should be based on historical data. This setback is more poignant for students who have been traditionally marginalized (Zhang & Storey, 2022). After the pandemic, schools where the majority of students are African American or Hispanic were behind an average of six months in math and reading.

The ripple effect of learning loss can be seen as early as elementary school. Elementary school students who face learning loss are at an increased risk of lower literacy rates, thus compromising their academic trajectory (Bryant et al., 2023). For example, research indicates a strong relationship between reading proficiency by the end of third grade and subsequent academic setbacks such as higher high school dropout rates (Lesnick, et al., 2010). Additionally, those grappling with learning loss stand at a higher risk of forgoing college, especially when compared to their peers who achieved or surpassed grade-level reading competency.

To mitigate the negative effects of learning loss, school districts are increasingly turning to external support such as tutoring. Tutoring is a rapidly emerging educational strategy that significantly supports an array of learning outcomes (Cardona, 2021; Nickow et al., 2020). For instance, tutoring equips students with vital strategies and skills that enhance academic results when applied in the classroom (Hock, et al, 2001). It holds particular significance for at-risk students or those with disabilities, as research shows improved assessment scores among all students in tutoring, thus, demonstrating the critical role that tutoring plays in promoting educational equity (Williams, 2023).

K12 Tutoring is a high-dosage tutoring solution that aims to reduce learning loss and empower students to regain and surpass their academic potential. Effective high-dosage tutoring programs, such as K12 Tutoring, consist of several essential components demonstrated in table 1.

Table 1. Evidence-based components of high-dosage tutoring and K12 Tutoring

Component of High-Dosage Tutoring	K12 Tutoring Offers
Tutoring sessions that offer students a regular stream of support from high-quality tutors.	K12 Tutoring tutors are state-certified educators, a testament to the quality of the assistance students receive.
Tutoring sessions that emphasize cultivating robust, long-lasting relationships between students and tutors, fostering an environment of trust and individualized attention.	<p>K12 Tutoring incorporates a reciprocal review system, where tutors and students evaluate each other and the session's efficacy.</p> <p>Students can bookmark preferred tutors, facilitating consistent interactions with their chosen instructors. Further, the platform contains a recurring session booking feature, which allows sessions to be booked easily on a repeating basis with the same tutor.</p>
Tutors aligned with the school curriculum, thus ensuring that sessions supplement and bolster classroom instruction.	Booking notes and messaging features within the platform enable school educators to specify to K12 Tutoring's tutors exactly what topics or state standards to cover in each session. In addition, K12 Tutoring empowers tutors to deploy their own resources by uploading files that align with the school's curriculum and specifications, tap into the school's curriculum or homework themselves, or harness the Learning Hub, K12 Tutoring's proprietary, standards-aligned curriculum library.
Diligent oversight of tutors is crucial to maintain quality interactions and ensure the overall effectiveness of the program.	K12 Tutoring requires their tutors to adhere to Community Guidelines to ensure students receive the best possible tutoring experience. K12 Tutoring's tutors also have access to K12 Tutoring's Professional Development Center to support their ongoing learning and training needs, and they also have access to a forum-style community where our tutors and instructional leaders can exchange recommendations and best practices.

Note. Data for this table was retrieved from Robinson, C., Kraft, M., Loeb, S., Schueler, B. (2021). Design Principles for Accelerating Student Learning with High-Impact Tutoring. EdResearch for Action.

https://annenbergbrown.edu/sites/default/files/EdResearch_for_Recovery_Design_Principles_1.pdf

Logic Model

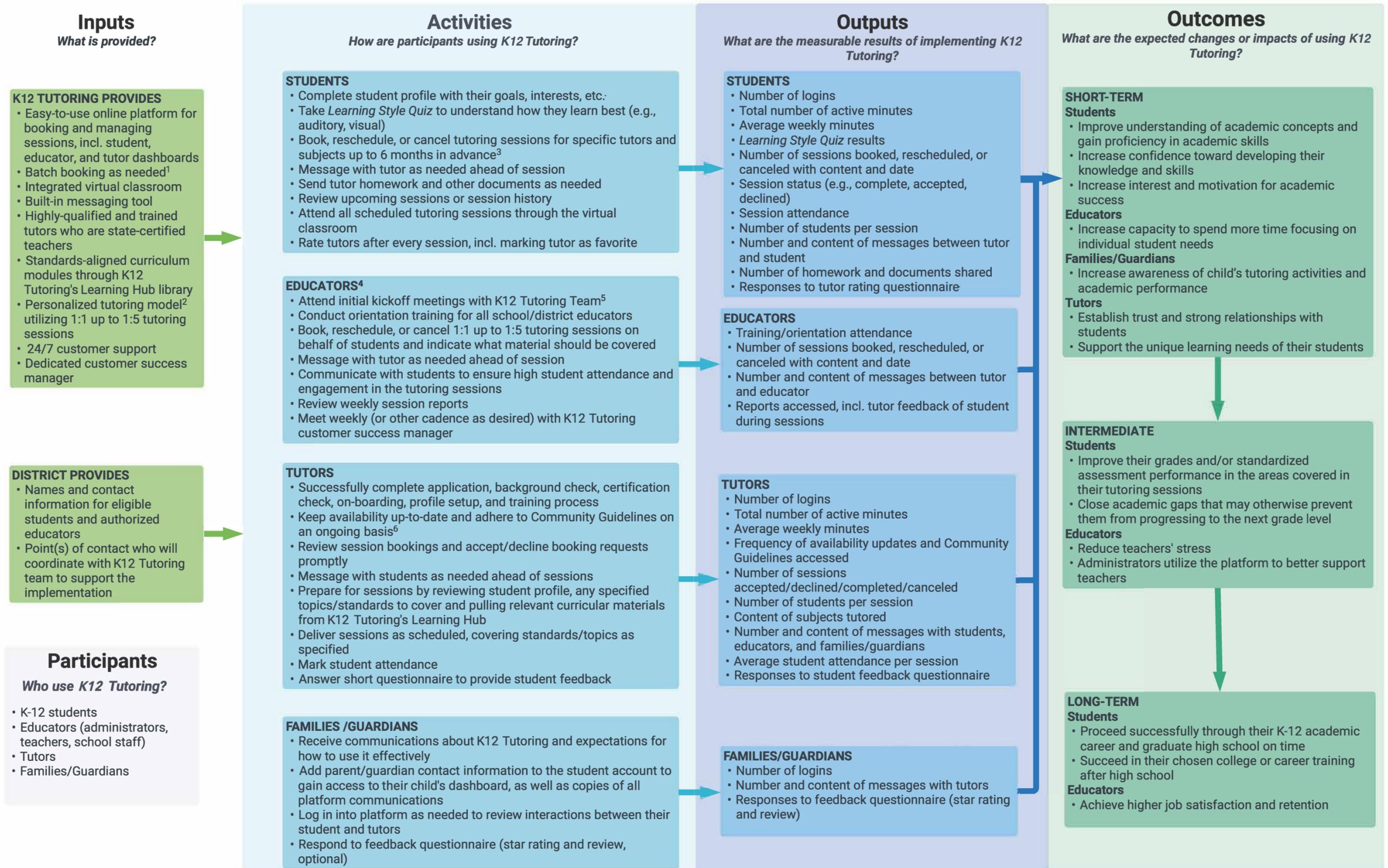
A logic model is a program roadmap. It identifies how a program aims to impact learners, translating inputs into measurable activities that lead to expected results. A logic model has five core components: inputs, participants, activities, outputs, and outcomes (see Table 1).

Table 1. Logic model core components

Component	Description	More information
Inputs	What the provider invests	What resources are invested and/or required for the learning solution to function effectively in real schools?
Participants	Who the provider reaches	Who receives the learning solution or intervention? Who are the key users?
Activities	What participants do	What do participants do with the resources identified in Inputs? What are the core/essential components of the learning solution? What is being delivered to help students/teachers achieve the program outcomes identified?
Outputs	Products of activities	What are numeric indicators of activities? (e.g., key performance indicators; allows for examining program implementation)
Outcomes	Short-term, intermediate, long-term	Short-term outcomes are changes in awareness, knowledge, skills, attitudes, and aspirations. Intermediate outcomes are changes in behaviors or actions. Long-term outcomes are ultimate impacts or changes in social, economic, civil or environmental conditions.

LearnPlatform reviewed K12 Tutoring resources, artifacts, and program materials to develop a draft logic model. K12 Tutoring reviewed the draft and provided revisions during virtual meetings. The final logic model depicted below (Figure 1) reflects these conversations and revisions.

Problem Statement: Districts are struggling to meet the learning needs of students who have experienced academic setbacks or learning loss due to the pandemic. K12 Tutoring seeks to address these challenges by leveraging technology to connect students with tutors who are certified teachers, using a personalized tutoring model. This intensive approach meets students where they are academically and helps to accelerate their learning so they can achieve their academic goals.



¹ Batch Booking allows districts to share a spreadsheet of students/student groups and their intended tutoring schedule so that K12 Tutoring can create bookings in bulk.

² Personalized Tutoring Model is an approach to tutoring that is tailored to meet specific student needs.

³ School/district may choose whether to enable this feature for students to book their own sessions or whether the school books student sessions.

⁴ Educator division of responsibilities might be different depending on the school.

⁵ Initial Kickoff Meetings are an opportunity to gain a mutual understanding of the scope and goals of the implementation, the student population and their needs, and the roles and responsibilities across the customer and K12 Tutoring teams.

⁶ K12 Tutoring publishes Community Guidelines that tutors must adhere to in order to maintain access to the tutoring platform.

K12 Tutoring Logic Model Components. K12 Tutoring invests several resources into their program, including:

- Easy-to-use online platform for booking and managing sessions, incl. student, educator, and tutor dashboards
- Batch booking as needed²
- Integrated virtual classroom
- Built-in messaging tool
- Highly-qualified and trained tutors who are state-certified teachers
- Standards-aligned curriculum modules through K12 Tutoring's Learning Hub library
- Personalized tutoring model³ utilizing 1:1 up to 1:5 tutoring sessions
- 24/7 customer support
- Dedicated customer success manager

A district using K12 Tutoring would need to provide the names and contact information for eligible students and authorized educators as well as points of contact for coordinating with the K12 Tutoring team to support the implementation.

Ultimately, the K12 Tutoring program aims to reach K–12 students, educators (administrators, teachers, school staff), tutors, and families/guardians.

Using these program resources, K-12 students, educators (administrators, teachers, school staff), tutors, families/guardians can engage with the K12 Tutoring platform in the following activities:

STUDENTS

- Complete student profile with their goals, interests, etc.
- Take Learning Style Quiz to understand how they learn best (e.g., auditory, visual)
- Book, reschedule, or cancel tutoring sessions for specific tutors and subjects up to 6 months in advance⁴
- Message with tutor as needed ahead of session
- Send tutor homework and other documents as needed
- Review upcoming sessions or session history
- Attend all scheduled tutoring sessions through the virtual classroom
- Rate tutors after every session, including marking tutor as favorite

EDUCATORS⁵

- Attend initial kickoff meetings with K12 Tutoring Team⁶

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⁴ School/district may choose whether to enable this feature for students to book their own sessions or whether the school books student sessions.

⁵ Educator division of responsibilities might be different depending on the school

⁶ Initial Kickoff Meetings are an opportunity to gain a mutual understanding of the scope and goals of the implementation, the student population and their needs, and the roles and responsibilities across the customer and K12 Tutoring teams.

- Conduct orientation training for all school/district educators
- Book, reschedule, or cancel 1:1 up to 1:5 tutoring sessions on behalf of students and indicate what material should be covered
- Message with tutor as needed ahead of session
- Communicate with students to ensure high student attendance and engagement in the tutoring sessions
- Review weekly session reports
- Meet weekly (or other cadence as desired) with K12 Tutoring customer success manager

TUTORS

- Successfully complete application, background check, certification check, on-boarding, profile setup, and training process
- Keep availability up-to-date and adhere to Community Guidelines on an ongoing basis⁷
- Review session bookings and accept/decline booking requests promptly
- Message with student as needed ahead of sessions
- Prepare for sessions by reviewing student profile, any specified topics/standards to cover and pulling relevant curricular materials from K12 Tutoring's Learning Hub
- Deliver sessions as scheduled, covering standards/topics as specified
- Mark student attendance
- Answer short questionnaire to provide student feedback

FAMILIES /GUARDIANS

- Receive communications about K12 Tutoring and expectations for how to use it effectively
- Add parent/guardian contact information to the student account to gain access to their child's dashboard, as well as copies of all platform communications
- Log in into platform as needed, to review interactions between their student and tutors
- Respond to feedback questionnaire (star rating and review, optional)

K12 Tutoring can examine the extent to which core activities were delivered and participants were reached by examining the following quantifiable outputs:

STUDENTS

- Number of logins
- Total number of active minutes
- Average weekly minutes
- Learning Style Quiz results
- Number of sessions booked, rescheduled, or canceled with content and date
- Session status (e.g., complete, accepted, declined)
- Session attendance
- Number of students per session

⁷ K12 Tutoring publishes Community Guidelines that tutors must adhere to in order to maintain access to the tutoring platform.

- Number and content of messages between tutor and student
- Number of homework and documents shared
- Responses to tutor rating questionnaire

EDUCATORS

- Training/orientation attendance
- Number of sessions booked, rescheduled or canceled with content and date
- Number and content of messages between tutor and educator
- Reports accessed, including tutor feedback of students during sessions

TUTORS

- Number of logins
- Total number of active minutes
- Average weekly minutes
- Frequency of availability updates and Community Guidelines accessed
- Number of sessions accepted/declined/completed/canceled
- Number of students per session
- Content of subjects tutored
- Number and content of messages with students, educators, and families/guardians
- Average student attendance per session
- Responses to student feedback questionnaire

FAMILIES/GUARDIANS

- Number of logins
- Number and content of messages with tutors
- Responses to feedback questionnaire (star rating and review)

If implementation is successful, based on a review of program outputs, K12 Tutoring can expect the following short-term outcomes. For students, a deeper understanding and proficiency in academic concepts and skills are fostered. This leads to increased confidence and subsequently, an augmented interest and motivation towards achieving academic success. From an educator's standpoint, there's an expanded capacity to allocate more time focusing on individual student needs. For families and guardians, it increases their awareness of their child's tutoring activities and overall academic performance. Lastly, tutors are able to forge trust-based, robust relationships with their students and better cater to their unique learning needs.

Over an intermediate term, students stand to improve their grades and standardized assessment performances in areas covered during tutoring sessions, thereby closing any academic gaps that could potentially hinder their progression to the next grade level. For educators, a significant stress reduction is expected as they leverage support from additional certified teachers in providing their students with targeted academic support. Additionally, administrators can bolster their ability to provide teachers with more comprehensive and targeted support.

In the long term, students successfully graduate high school on time and are prepared to succeed in their chosen college or career. Educators, too, witness profound benefits, with higher job satisfaction and retention surfacing as key outcomes.

Study Design for K12 Tutoring Evaluation

To continue building evidence of effectiveness and to examine the proposed relationships in the logic model, K12 Tutoring has plans to conduct an evaluation to determine the extent to which its program produces the desired outcomes. Specifically, K12 Tutoring has plans to begin an ESSA III study to answer the following research questions:

- 1) To what extent did students engage with K12 Tutoring focused on math and reading?
 - a) On average, how many total minutes were students actively engaged with K12 Tutoring?
 - b) On average, how many K12 Tutoring sessions did students attend?
- 2) Was student engagement with K12 Tutoring associated with higher scores on math and ELA standardized assessments?

Conclusions

This study satisfies ESSA evidence requirements for Level IV (*Demonstrates a Rationale*). Specifically, this study met the following criteria for Level IV:

- ✓ Detailed logic model informed by previous, high-quality research
- ✓ Study planning and design is currently underway for an ESSA Level I, II or III study

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