

Supporting Disadvantaged Students to Succeed in Math

School and District Leader Guides

Josing the math

Supporting disadvantaged students to succeed in math



In the US, **over 9 million children** live below the federal poverty line. These children — and others from similar socioeconomic backgrounds — face academic challenges that their peers don't.

In math in particular, students from low-income families score **20-30 points lower** on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) than students from higher-income families.

What challenges do disadvantaged students face in math?

1 Inequality of access

Students from disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to have access to the same resources as their peers and are more likely to:

- Be caring for young siblings
- Lack a quiet space to study
- Have less parental involvement or support in their learning
- · Lack access to physical resources e.g. textbooks
- Lack access to technology, hardware, and software to support their learning

How can teachers help?

- Remove any barriers to learning by providing equipment and resources where necessary
- Run a peer study support group at school
- Select a pull-out academic intervention to support target students

By working directly with schools and districts, we are able to provide personalized one-on-one math tutoring to the students most in need. All schools need is a laptop or tablet, we provide the rest. 73% of schools signed up for Third Space Learning math tutoring are Title I schools.

2 Low confidence and math anxiety

Because disadvantaged students don't always have the same access to resources and support as their peers, they can feel less confident in their academic ability.

In math especially, where there's often only one correct answer, the fear of mistakes can be hard to overcome and lead to significant math anxiety.

How can teachers help?

- Give students a safe space where they can ask questions without fear of judgment
- Direct specific praise toward students when they make progress
- Create a positive math mindset by demonstrating how math applies to real life

One-on-one tutoring provides a safe space for students to make mistakes away from their peers. Third Space Learning tutors praise students for their effort and engagement, and ask questions like 'how did you work that out?' and 'could you use any other methods?' to help students feel invested in their own growth.

Why one-on-one tutoring helps



Closing the math

Our mission at Third Space Learning is to close the math achievement gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students. We do this by working directly with schools and districts to provide online one-on-one math tutoring that supports the students who need it most.



1 Affordable high-quality tutoring

Providing tutoring directly to schools means costs can be covered by school funding, including Title 1 and ESSER. By doing this, we make our services available to those who need it most; disadvantaged students.

Our tutoring is run online rather than in-person to increase affordability and accessibility. By using online tutors, we're able to decrease costs while maintaining a high quality of teaching through specialist vetted tutors.



Third Space Learners only focus on the standards they need support with. Schools either choose the right pathway for each student, or can send us their assessment data and we'll tailor the instruction to the needs of each child.

Third Space Learning tutors are also trained and advised on how to cater lessons to the needs of students classified as special education.



3 Confidence-boosting learning

A **one-on-one learning environment** gives students the **opportunity to make** mistakes without worrying about what their peers might think.

Students feel more comfortable speaking up, building their confidence and math talk in both their tutoring sessions as well as in the classroom, helping close the achievement gap.



Supportive tutors

Third Space Learners are matched with the same tutor each time, enabling them to build rapport and providing them with a math mentor.

Tutors actively aim to give specific praise, something disadvantaged students may not receive in other aspects of their lives. This can reassure and encourage students as well as change their mindset and attitude towards learning.

Committed to helping disadvantaged students succeed

We've tutored over 165,000 students and supported over 4,000 schools since 2013. 73% of schools signed up for Third Space Learning math tutoring are Title I schools, with over 40% of the student body coming from low income backgrounds.

Do you have a group of students who need a boost in math?

Each student could receive personalized lessons every week from our specialist one-on-one math tutors.



Differentiated instruction for each student



Aligned to your state's standards



Scaffolded learning to close gaps

93% of teachers feel Third Space Learning lessons helped their pupils achieve higher assessment scores!

Speak to us





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