



**THIRD SPACE
LEARNING**

Unlocking Funding for Math Interventions

Understanding the funding available to your school
and district and how to maximize it for the best
results for your students.

School and District Leader Guides

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Introduction

In every math class, there are students who need a little extra help to keep up with their peers. Even for the most experienced teacher, it can be difficult to give those students the supplementary support they need.

Math interventions are essential for making sure struggling students are getting additional opportunities to consolidate knowledge and apply their skills over and above classroom teaching.

These interventions cost money, and with so many varied funding initiatives on offer, it's not always easy to know what's available or how to maximize your strategy to ensure it's cost-effective.

Why we've made this resource

We've created this guide to support school leaders in their funding decisions for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year, and to support budget planning in 2024-2025 to ensure funds have a positive impact on those students that need it most.



Here at Third Space Learning, we've worked with **4,000+ schools since 2013** to provide online one-on-one math tutoring interventions for their target pupils. Over the years, we've spoken with tens of thousands of school and district leaders looking for advice about how best to fund their interventions and what funding is available.

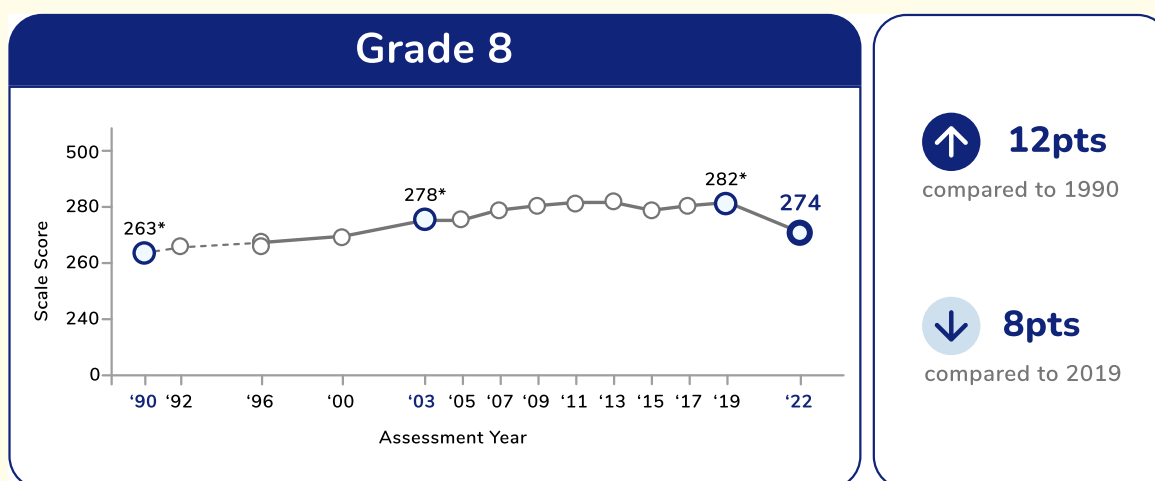
Sometimes defined as an “academic intervention” or an “instructional intervention”, an intervention is a specific set of steps or a program designed to address an academic need.

Interventions commonly happen for subjects like math and English, though this can vary by school, district, and state.

Why are math interventions an effective use of funding?


Studies have shown that disrupted learning during and after the Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the achievement gap in math.

★ The Nation's Report Card, created by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) shows that the average mathematics scores for the nation were lower by 5 points in fourth grade and lower by 8 points in eighth grade in 2022 compared to scores in 2019. This clearly underscores an increased learning loss in mathematics.



Research like this is part of the reason why schools can access funding available to help advance equity in education, and math interventions play a key part in how the U.S. Department of Education (ED) expects schools to spend this funding.

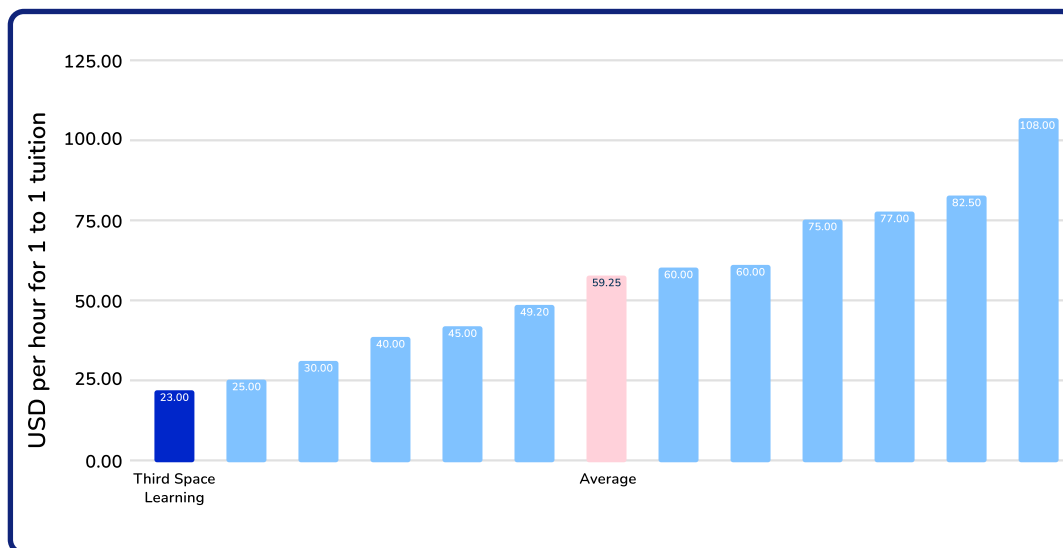
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

 This is where Third Space Learning's model of affordable tutoring focused on individual students' needs has proved extremely cost-effective for thousands of schools and over 150,000 students over the past 10 years. If you're new to how this works, take a look at the elementary math interventions on offer.

How much do math interventions cost?

The cost of math interventions varies depending on the style of intervention, as well as the amount of students targeted.

If we take math tutoring - an increasingly popular intervention approach for schools and districts -, and look at 12 of the most popular providers for schools, the average cost is \$59 per student per hour.



One study of a Chicago high-dosage math tutoring program found that it cost on the order of \$3,800 a student over a school year, though economies of scale could potentially bring that figure down if it's expanded.

There are ways to reduce the costs of math interventions, such as:

- ✓ **Virtual learning:** studies have shown that virtual interventions can lower tutoring costs and potentially provide stronger matches between students' needs and tutors' skill sets by expanding the potential supply of tutors
- ✓ **Paraprofessionals and paid volunteers:** research shows these alternatives are as good as certified classroom teachers in providing tutoring, and they are much less costly



On average, online one-on-one tutoring from Third Space Learning's team of professional tutors is 2.4x more affordable than the average cost of one-on-one tutoring, with session prices starting at just \$16.

Your intervention funding options explained

With multiple funding pots available for multiple interventions, it can be challenging to understand what the options are and what they'll actually mean for your students.

Here we'll break down the different options schools have for funding math interventions to help school and district leaders best allocate their budget, staffing, and interventions over the next school year.

- 1 Title I
- 2 ESSER
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Title I

- ✓ **Amount:** Typically \$500-600 per student per year for eligible Title I schools, although this varies based on location. If using this for Third Space Learning math tutoring, a Title I student could receive weekly math tutoring for an entire academic year using Title 1 funding alone
- ✓ **Frequency:** Annual funding

Title I funding refers to **Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)**. It is the largest federal aid package for schools in the United States.

Title I is federal funding allocated to LEAs (Local Education Agencies) and schools with high numbers or percentages of children from low-income families to ensure that students meet state academic standards.

Who is eligible for Title I funding?

Schools are eligible for Title I funding if at least **40% of their students are from low-income families**, meaning the students receive Free and Reduced Lunch. The funding is used for schoolwide programs that serve the lowest achieving students. These programs could be:

- ✓ One-on-one tutoring programs such as Third Space Learning
- ✓ Small group tutoring
- ✓ Before and after school programs
- ✓ Classes with fewer students
- ✓ Technology support
- ✓ Summer programs

How is Title I allocated?

Title I funds are currently allocated through 4 grants:

1 Basic Grants (the largest component of Title I)

This is when an LEA finds, through parent applications or targeted assistance, that a minimum of 10 students per school (or at least 2% of school-age children in the district) are eligible for free or reduced lunch, then the LEA receives a grant of Title I money.

2 Concentrated Grants (the smallest component of Title I)

These are funds available for school districts where the number of low income students exceeds 6,500 or 15% of the district's 5 to 17 year olds.

3 Targeted Grants

These funds are based on the same data used for Basic and Concentrated Grants except that the data are weighted. The LEAs with higher numbers or percentages of children receive more funds.

4 Education Finance Incentive Grants

Given to states to provide school districts with additional funding for low-income and disadvantaged students.

If an LEA finds, through parent applications or targeted assistance, that a minimum of 10 students per school (or at least 2% of school-age children in the district) are eligible for free or reduced lunch, then the LEA receives a grant of Title I money which is sent from the federal government to the state department of education.



73% of schools signed up for Third Space Learning math tutoring are Title 1 schools, with over 40% of the student body coming from low income backgrounds.

How can Title I funding be spent?

The funding can be spent in one of two ways:

- ✓ A schoolwide program model, where the school may use Title I funds to upgrade its entire educational program and all students in the school can participate in Title I funded activities;
- ✓ A targeted assistance program model, where the school must use Title I funds to provide additional support to specific students struggling to meet state standards.



As a targeted pull-out intervention for struggling students, Third Space Learning tutoring is an example of the second option. While a push-in intervention provides differentiated instruction in the classroom, pull-out interventions happen outside of the general education classroom.

How long will Title I funding be available?

Any changes to the formulas that allocate Title I funds require a reauthorization of ESEA, which takes place every five years.

What should school leaders consider when spending Title I funding on interventions?

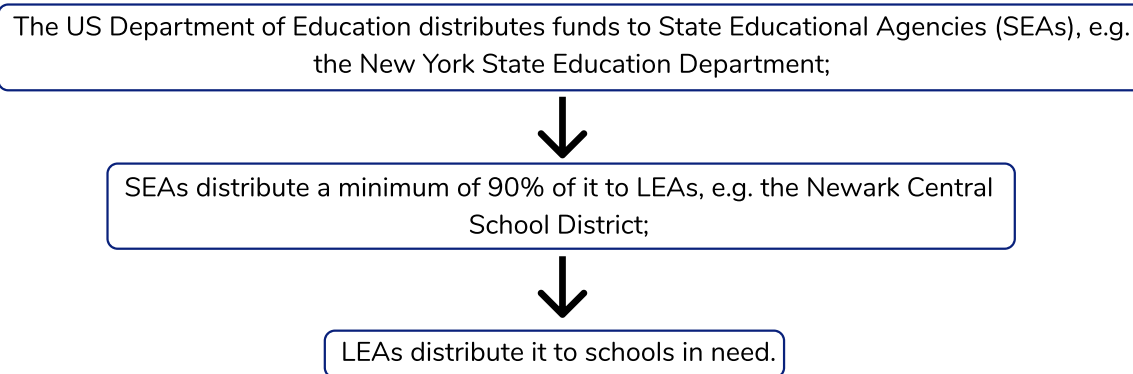
- ✓ Requesting a Title 1 grant involves an application process where a school must describe how the funds would be used to improve academic performance;
- ✓ In-school teachers and paraprofessionals that provide tutoring in a Title I program must meet state qualification requirements; external tutoring providers don't.

ESSER I, II, and ESSER

- ✓ **Amount:** \$122bn distributed to State Educational Agencies then to Local Educational Agencies to be provided to school districts through grants. ESSER provides approximately \$1,000 per student or an increase of approximately 8% in overall funding, depending on your state.
- ✓ **Frequency:** One-time funding grants
- ✓ **Deadline:** To be obligated by September 30 2024

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funding (ESSER I) was created in 2020 in response to the Covid pandemic, providing \$13.2 billion in funding. A further \$54.3 billion was provided by ESSER II in late 2020, followed by \$122 billion in the ARP (American Rescue Plan) ESSER fund of 2021.

Here's how ESSER funding is distributed:



ESSER funding is awarded to SEAs in the same proportion as each state received funds under Title I.

Who is eligible for ESSER funding?

An LEA may use its ESSER formula funds to support any school in the district, regardless of a school's Title I status.

It may target funds based on poverty, indication of school needs, or other targeting measures. Schools will need to apply to their LEA to become a subrecipient of ESSER funding.

How can ESSER funding be spent?

The main focus of ESSER funding is to help close learning gaps created by disrupted learning during the Covid pandemic. According to [this report by the US Department of Education](#), one of the most popular eligible ways to spend ESSER funding is:

- ✔ Addressing the academic impact of lost instructional time among an LEA's students, including low-income students, students with disabilities, English language learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, including by:
 - Providing high-quality, reliable assessments that accurately assess students' academic progress.
 - Administering evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students.

As one of the most effective ways to close the achievement gap among students impacted by the pandemic, tutoring is one of the most popular ways to spend Covid relief funding.



"We knew that catch up needed to take place due to Covid and students not being in a school environment, and the kids really enjoy it. I would absolutely recommend Third Space Learning to other schools."

School Leader, Morland School



“When implemented well, **high-dosage tutoring** can reduce burdens on teachers and complement other school-based activities such as building educator capacity through the use of math and literacy coaches, which research shows can improve student achievement, and professional development to support data-driven instruction.”

Improving Student Achievement Agenda Fact Sheet
(17 January 2024)

How long will ESSER funding be available?

ESSER funding expires in September 2024. That means 2023/24 is the last school year in which this funding program will be available for K-12 education. However, new guidance means that although states have to commit the federal funding by the end of the 2023/24 school year, they **can apply to extend it**.

The guidance lists multiple academic recovery interventions that they consider ‘permissible’ use for an additional 18 months of ESSER funding spending. ‘High-quality tutoring’ is included among these key evidence-based strategies.

This equates to a potential extra year and a half of funding in states that successfully receive an extension for their ESSER funds.

While ESSER funding still needs to be properly obligated by the statutory deadline of 30 September 2024, it can be used to fund initiatives to help close learning gaps created by disrupted instruction in future years.

What should school leaders consider when spending ESSER funding on interventions?

- ✓ Schools must track and report all spending associated with ESSER funding, including providing detailed records of how the funds were used and documenting that the money was spent according to their approved plan;
- ✓ School administrators must make sure their ESSER funding is properly obligated by the statutory deadline of 30 September 2024

Title II, Part A

Title II, Part A Funding focuses on supporting the professional development of teachers and school leaders.

While this initiative might not directly fund a math intervention, it can be relevant to funding CPD for specialists providing support for your students — for example, funding the training of math tutors if you are running an in house tutoring program.

Title III, Part A

The main purpose of Title III funding is to ensure that English as a Second Language (ESL) students are supported in meeting grade-level academic standards.

- ✓ The creation or development of language instruction interventions
- ✓ Professional development for teachers
- ✓ Alternative bilingual education programs

Title IV, Part A

Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grant

Purpose of Title IV Part A is categorized into three broad areas

- 1) Well rounded education
- 2) Safety and health
- 3) Effective use of technology.

Under "well-rounded" education funds can be used for supporting programs in core curriculum such as mathematics.

Title IV, Part B

The **CCLC (21st Century Community Learning Centers)** program supports the development of community learning centers that offer opportunities for academic enrichment to students, particularly those who attend schools in areas of high poverty.

The program aims to:

- ✓ Support students toward meeting grade-level academic standards in core subjects such as math and reading
- ✓ Complement regular academic programs with enrichment activities
- ✓ Support the families of participating students with relevant educational services

GEAR UP

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) provides funding at the middle and high school levels to support college readiness initiatives. Usually tailored to the specific needs of the local community, GEAR UP services often include:

- ✓ In-school mentoring or tutoring programs
- ✓ Scholarships or financial aid
- ✓ College and career planning alongside parental engagement programs

IDEA Funding, Part B


IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) provides federal funding to assist states and localities in supporting the education of children with disabilities. In order to be eligible for these funds, school districts must show compliance with the key areas of IDEA. Schools and districts may use IDEA funds to enhance special education services, including, but not limited to:

- ✓ If consistent with the student's IEP, tutoring to support disabled students
- ✓ High-quality instructional materials to support tutoring
- ✓ Assessment of student needs and progress
- ✓ Professional development for staff that provide tutoring focused on meeting the needs of students with disabilities

Grants

There are two ways to access subsidized interventions via grants:

- 1 When researching external providers, look for organizations that have been awarded grants from nonprofits and charities, as their interventions will often be subsidized.

 Third Space Learning is proud to be one of 32 organizations supported by Accelerate's Call to Effective Action (CEA) Grant for 23/24: an initiative that supports innovative, scalable tutoring models across the United States. This means we are able to:

- Reduce the cost of tutoring during the 23-24 school year
- Provide headsets and microphones free of charge
- Remove all set-up costs
- Assign your school a dedicated account manager

- 2 All states have organizations that offer grants directly to public schools. Doing research to find these organizations is relatively easy. However, be aware that many grants have strict deadlines for applications, so be sure to apply early in the school year.

How to maximize your intervention funding

Braiding funds

Braiding your funding means supporting different parts of an intervention initiative with different funding sources. For example, a school district might use Title I federal funding alongside supplemental state funding in a coordinated approach to implement your school's chosen intervention strategy.

Providing support for multiple students at once

The more students you can support at one time, the more cost-effective your intervention strategy will be. This might sound like small group intervention sessions are your best option, but if you're looking for maximum impact on your students' growth and confidence, this might not be the best approach.

One-on-one support is more effective but traditionally more expensive and more difficult to organize, especially in-person. Many schools choose online one-on-one interventions to enable multiple students to receive tailored support at the same time.



At Third Space Learning, up to 15 students can receive personalized one on one math tutoring from their own dedicated tutor in the same one hour timeslot. We recommend 15 based on school IT system capacity, as well as on classroom noise levels. For schools that wish to support more than 15 students, we recommend splitting these across multiple timeslots.



"Really powerful intervention that meets the needs of the key marginal children"

"10 children having an intervention at the same time is more efficient than one at a time."

"1-1 tuition for multiple children at the same time is a fantastic use of time. It's coherent with our curriculum."

Prioritize personalized learning

If your intervention isn't targeted and personalized to each student's needs, you risk spending funding on delivering content that a student might not need to cover.

We recommend that assessments take place throughout an intervention program to ensure all support is tailored to meet each student's individual needs. This also means you've got an up-to-date picture of each student's needs and are addressing them accordingly.



In Third Space Learning's online one on one math tutoring, our lessons begin with an introduction slide to activate prior knowledge. Additionally, the tutor can use it to diagnose the students' learning gaps.

By asking carefully considered questions such as; "how do you know what strategies to use here?" and "can you explain to me how you arrived at that answer?" tutors can model various planning techniques for their students, and continually assess their progress going forward.

Choose interventions that save time

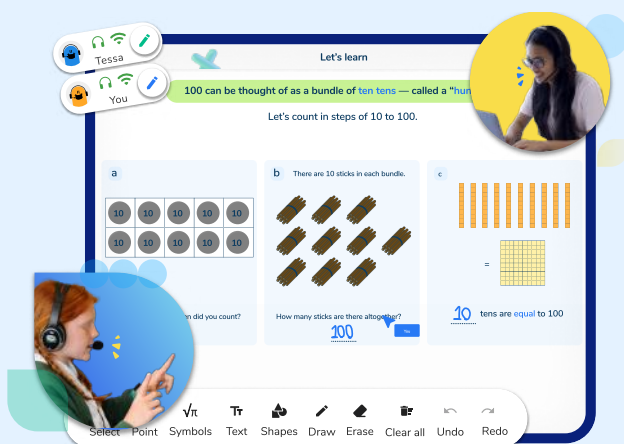
Your chosen intervention might be accelerating your students' math growth, but if it's taking hours of your time, it's not cost-effective.

Over and above time spent on delivery, many interventions involve time being spent on:

- ✓ Recruiting and training staff to deliver the intervention
- ✓ Creating or sourcing intervention materials, especially if they're personalized
- ✓ Class teachers liaising with the person delivering the intervention to discuss progress

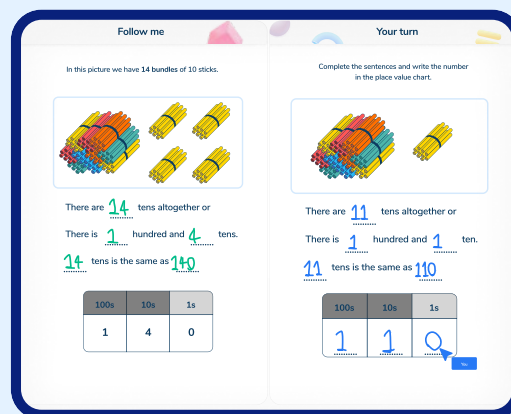
Choosing an intervention with these elements built in will help you allocate your funding more effectively.

Third Space Learning's intervention curriculum contains lessons mapped to specific diagnosed learning needs. Each lesson uses a scaffolded structure to help students move smoothly from guided to independent practice — at a personalized learning pace!



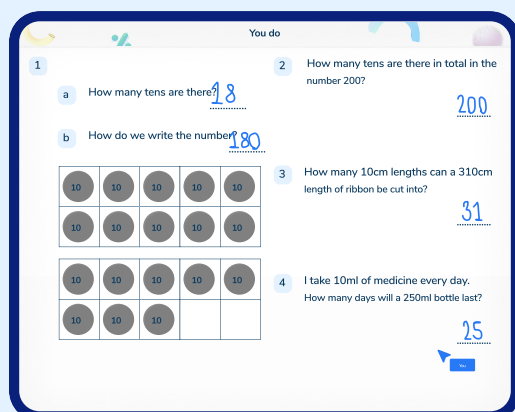
Let's learn

Each tutoring lesson begins by introducing the unit and helping students feel ready to learn



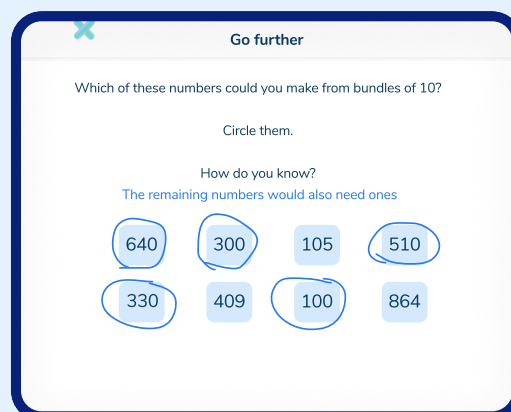
Follow me + your turn

Students then work through a scaffolded example with their tutor before trying a similar question on their own



You do

A carefully sequenced next question ensures students can apply knowledge to different contexts



Go further

This gives students an opportunity to apply their knowledge to problem solving and reasoning questions

In the one-on-one sessions, our STEM-specialist tutors adjust the pace to match each student's learning style, as well as giving them the one-on-one attention they might not get during whole class instruction.



"The personalized approach for children is fantastic, meeting individual needs and narrowing gaps. The children enjoy the lessons, make good progress and their skills are clearly transferred to class lessons. Thank you!"

School Leader, Highfield School

Keep engagement high

For an intervention to be cost-effective, your students need to be engaged and motivated to learn. Without this motivation, it might be difficult to see the progress you expect. Based on our years of tutoring experience, there are a few things that you can do to boost engagement during interventions:

1 Build rapport

It may sound obvious, but the basis of all good teaching is the relationship between teacher and student. It's worth allowing time for whoever is delivering the chosen intervention to get to know students from the start and understand what motivates them or what their specific barriers to learning are.



Third Space Learners receive instruction from the same tutor each week, helping them build rapport and confidence as they develop their verbal fluency in math.

2 Encourage metacognition

To get the most out of any intervention, students should be actively engaged in their own learning. To encourage this process of metacognition, interventionists can use techniques such as:

- ✓ Talking with a student about their prior knowledge of a particular topic
- ✓ Asking questions such as '*what do you notice?*' and '*what strategies could you use?*'
- ✓ Encouraging the student to recap what they've just learned



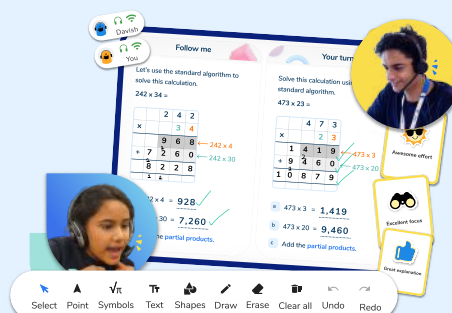
Read: [The Ultimate Guide to Metacognition](#)¹

Provide regular praise

Students need to feel rewarded for the effort they put into their learning. Without praise, students are likely to feel demotivated and might be reluctant to attend their next intervention session. In our experience as a one-on-one math tutoring provider, effective praise strategies focus on attitude and effort as well as correct answers.



At Third Space Learning, we're in the lucky position that every pupil we teach is in a one-to-one environment. This means we can maximize each opportunity for praise and ensure each pupil feels rewarded throughout the moments that matter most. Third Space Learning tutors use verbal praise to encourage each student during their sessions.



Useful intervention resources

There are thousands of free resources available in our [online resource library](#). Many of these are suitable for TA-led interventions, including:

- ✓ Worked example activity pack
- ✓ Word problems
- ✓ Daily arithmetic and reasoning practice
- ✓ Diagnostic assessment
- ✓ Math escape room
- ✓ Tarsia puzzle
- ✓ Worksheets
- ✓ Exit tickets
- ✓ Math intervention packs




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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