

School Districts Face Growing Tutoring Shortages as Major Provider Closes, Funding Ends

With FEV Tutors closing and ESSER funds expiring, districts must find lasting tutoring solutions to keep students on track. Brainfuse offers proven solutions.



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As school districts nationwide grapple with the abrupt closure of a major tutoring provider and the expiration of ESSER funding, educators are racing to find long-term academic support solutions for students.

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The recent shutdown of FEV Tutors, one of the providers that served districts during the pandemic, has left many schools in a sudden lurch, forcing administrators to search for [alternative tutoring options](#) just as pandemic-era relief funding dries up.

With tutoring playing a crucial role in combating pandemic learning loss, education leaders are now reassessing their approach to ensure that student support services remain stable despite shifts in funding and provider availability.

The Search for Sustainable Tutoring Models

The shift away from ESSER-backed initiatives has prompted districts to prioritize long-term, flexible solutions over short-term programs. As a result, they are often looking to veteran online tutoring providers who, because they were not purpose-built for ESSER-funded programs, offer a wider range of academic support options.

One such platform is [Brainfuse](#), a U.S.-based tutoring provider with over 25 years of experience working with schools and libraries. Unlike many companies that tailored their services to ESSER requirements, Brainfuse has focused on customized programs that districts can integrate into

their existing academic frameworks.

“Many schools are facing tough decisions right now,” said Francesco Lecciso, CEO of Brainfuse. “The sudden loss of a provider can be disruptive, but the bigger challenge is ensuring that students don’t fall behind when funding shifts. That’s why we’ve always prioritized adaptability—so schools can maintain continuity, regardless of market changes.”

A Changing Landscape for Tutoring Providers

Industry analysts note that the education technology sector is undergoing a transformation, with many tutoring companies struggling to sustain operations without ESSER funds. The reliance on federal relief money allowed tutoring to expand dramatically during the pandemic, but now that those funds have run out, many companies are scaling back or shutting down entirely.

With ESSER funding gone, many districts are looking for more flexible service models that schools can adjust based on their evolving needs, including:

- 24/7 On-Demand Tutoring – Immediate student access to live academic support.
- High-Dosage Tutoring – Structured, intensive sessions proven to accelerate learning outcomes.
- AP & College Prep Support – Specialized tutoring for Advanced Placement courses, SAT/ACT prep, and dual enrollment programs.
- Customizable Pricing Models – A mix of full-service tutoring and platform-only options, allowing districts to scale as needed.

What’s Next for K–12 Tutoring?

With budget constraints tightening and provider options shifting, experts say districts need to rethink their approach to tutoring by investing in solutions that will last beyond temporary funding cycles.

“We’re seeing schools take a more strategic approach to tutoring now,” Lecciso added. “Rather than reacting to short-term funding opportunities, districts are looking for sustainable partnerships that will carry them through future academic cycles.”

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