

# Gateway to Excellence Early Years

Gateway tutors struggling and at-risk students in reading, writing and math, grades K-12.

All students must take a pre& post test as a prerequisite for our program. Gateway tutors must have a Teaching Certificate and is certified to teach. We will use paraprofessional (support staff) to ensure students are safe and needs are meet until the tutor arrives. All tutors are certified teachers.

Gateway's approach to tutoring includes Direct Instruction and Cooperative Learning.

Our model engages students through active learning & builds a sense of self-efficacy through identifiable goals that the students achieve during their sessions.

Gateway tutors 36 hours (2 days per week, 90 minutes per day) for 12 weeks.

Our program has proven highly effective at promoting substantial gains in reading, writing and math skills.

Gateway's fee is \$50.00/hour and can tutor from 6 to 400 students during the 2011-12 school year.

Upon a student's matriculation into our program, GTE administers a diagnostic assessment test or tests. The foundation for our initial assessment for our elementary students and our special education students of all levels is the Brigance CIBS-R test. This assessment tool allows us to pinpoint each student's areas of difficulty in reading and math. The Brigance CIBS-R meets the highest standards of validity and reliability.

Once we have administered the diagnostic assessment, we begin to create an Individual Learning Plan (ILP). We feel it is crucial that we communicate well with parents and students during the ILP creation process. By incorporating everyone into the ILP creation process we ensure the parents can provide support at home and that the student sees herself as an author and designer of a tutoring program that is there for *her* benefit.

In creating an ILP for each student, we first identify our goals for the student regarding grade level expectations. Our diagnostic tests indicate the content and skill areas in which students are performing below grade level. We use these tests, in combination with our other sources of information, to determine achievable yet ambitious goals for each student we serve. These goals consist of appropriate grade level expectations as identified Mississippi Department of Education. For students who are substantially below grade level, we may also determine goals that correlate with grade level expectations that are below the student's current grade. We identify these lower level expectations because they are necessary steps to get the higher level goals. The final assessment comes at the end of the tutoring program with

the post-test. The post-test will, of course, come from the same testing series as the diagnostic pre-test and the progress test. For each student, the post-test is used to measure overall growth, which goals have been met, and which content and skill areas still require attention.

GTE Lead Teachers make themselves available to meet with students together (or parents/legal guardians separately when requested) at times that are convenient for their hectic schedules - including meeting after tutoring sessions, before or during school hours, or on the weekends. Lead Teachers send progress reports home with students or mail these progress reports home when requested. Our progress reports are written in clear language that avoids education jargon that may be difficult for some parents to understand. Lead Teachers also make regular phone contact with parents/legal guardians when requested or when the Lead Teacher feels that the written communications are not effectively delivering information to parents. Gateway communicates via email with parents who request this form of communication, but we are well aware that many parents/legal guardians may have limited access to such technologies.