



★ | DUAL RESEARCH RECOGNITION

STUDY SMART TUTORS EARNS ESSA TIER IV VALIDATION AND EDUEVIDENCE BRONZE EFFICACY BADGE FOR HIGH-DOSAGE TUTORING

Independent third-party research validation from LXD Research and EduEvidence, advancing educational opportunities for students nationwide.

May 2026

Study Smart Tutors is proud to announce that our High-Dosage Tutoring program has received two independent, third-party research recognitions. The program is now recognized by LXD Research for **Demonstrating a Rationale (ESSA Tier IV)** and the **EduEvidence Bronze Efficacy Badge**, an international certification recognizing evidence of impact in education.

Together, these recognitions confirm that our in-person tutoring and intervention program **meets ESSA Standards of Evidence** for demonstrating a rationale to be effective. Our High-Dosage Tutoring program is designed to enhance grade-level learning outcomes through systematic tutor preparation, relationship-centered program design, and comprehensive progress monitoring, an approach reviewed and validated by both the LXD Research team and EduEvidence's College of Reviewers.

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ESSA Tier IV validation reflects the intentional design of our program and our commitment to what research shows drives student outcomes. We have built our approach around consistent tutoring, strong relationships, and instruction aligned to the classroom. The recognition affirms our focus on accelerating learning and expanding access to high quality support.

Dr. Hulya Odabas

Chief Strategy Officer, Study Smart Tutors

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Study Smart Tutors offers an in-person, high-dosage tutoring program that leverages high-quality tutor preparation, strong tutor to student relationships, and effective progress monitoring to help K-12 students accelerate learning outcomes. Our recommended model delivers 4-5 tutoring sessions per week in small groups (maximum 1:4 ratio) over 10-12 week cycles, offering a comprehensive approach built on three interconnected pillars: **rigorous tutor preparation and ongoing coaching, relationship-centered program design with consistent student-tutor pairings, and systematic progress monitoring** through our Presentify tracking platform. Our program is aligned with the National Student Support Accelerator (NSSA) Design Principles for Accelerating Student Learning with High-Impact Tutoring and holds the NSSA Tutoring Program Design Badge.

In addition to the ESSA Tier IV designation, we have also been awarded the EduEvidence Bronze Efficacy Badge. EduEvidence is an international certification body that evaluates educational programs across five dimensions: **Efficacy, Effectiveness, Ethics, Equity, and Environment**. EduEvidence's College of Reviewers determined that we meet the bronze efficacy standard by demonstrating a clear rationale for effectiveness through research-supported design features, noting that the logic model clearly illustrates how program design aligns with stated outputs and outcomes. The EduEvidence Bronze Efficacy Badge, valid through May 2028, reflects the same evidence base that earned the ESSA Tier IV recognition: the LXD Research foundation and logic model report.

In **the report that earned us the LXD Research ESSA Level IV Badge**, researchers evaluated the innovative strategies, pedagogical approaches, and empirical evidence that inform the design of our high-dosage tutoring program. The report details how our program engages students in learning, deepens their understanding of targeted ELA and math standards, transfers and extends these concepts and strategies to grade-level proficiency and real-world application, and strengthens students' ownership of their learning through metacognitive skills, academic confidence, and agency.

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The value of this recognition is reflected in the work happening every day across our programs. It speaks to the commitment of our students, the dedication of our tutors, the strength of our team, and the partnership of the schools, libraries, TRIO programs, GEAR UP programs, and community-centered organizations we serve. Driving meaningful outcomes takes all of us working together with consistency and care. This moment is both a celebration of that collective effort and a testament to what is possible when strong implementation meets a shared belief in student success.

Jordan Vargas

V.P of Education **Study Smart Tutors**

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About Study Smart Tutors

Study Smart Tutors is a national education services organization that works with schools, districts, libraries, nonprofits, and community organizations to deliver evidence-aligned tutoring and college access programming at scale.

Founded in 2009, Study Smart Tutors provides in-person, high-dosage tutoring for K-12 students through systematic tutor preparation, High-Quality Instructional Materials, stable student-tutor pairings, and continuous standards-aligned progress monitoring for intentional skill development.

Visit: www.studysmarttutors.com



About LXD Research

Learning Experience Design (LXD) Research is an independent evaluation and research firm within Charles River Media focusing on educational programs. LXD Research specializes in research communication, efficacy study validation, and the design and execution of ESSA-aligned research studies.

Visit www.LXDResearch.com.



About EduEvidence

EduEvidence is an international certification body providing independent evidence of impact in education. EduEvidence evaluates programs across five dimensions — Efficacy, Effectiveness, Ethics, Equity, and Environment — to help educators, schools, and districts identify programs with credible, research-backed foundations.

Visit www.eduevidence.org.