



Just In Time Online Tutor



WHAT IS JUST IN TIME ONLINE TUTOR?

Just in Time Online Tutor is a state-funded online tutoring pilot (OTP) provided through a partnership between the Texas Education Agency and Education Service Center, Region 20. The pilot has been established to assist students with supplemental, just-in-time help to overcome academic obstacles. It is currently available at 36 participating Texas public high schools with over 3000 students who can access the tutoring. The Tutor.com product was selected to be used in the pilot through a bid process in October 2008.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

As of November 2008, students go to the website at <http://homeworkhelptx.net> and click on the Just In Time logo to login with a unique access code, select their grade and content area and are in contact with live tutors via the Web. They can access the service before, during and after school hours as well as during weekends and the summer months.

Communication with the tutor takes place using instant messaging and a virtual whiteboard. In addition, students and tutors can view web pages simultaneously and share files. After each tutoring session is completed, students fill out a short evaluation form. Tutoring is available in multiple secondary courses, including Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and English. Spanish tutoring is available in all courses except English. A facilitator at each campus provides local support and monitors usage. Participating students may use the tutoring service for an unlimited number of times until August 31, 2009. Before receiving their access code, students and their parent/guardian are required to sign a usage agreement.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT?

A Request for Statement of Interest (RFSOI) was published on the ESC-20 website and an invitation was sent via multiple statewide listservs for schools to respond. ESC-20 staff followed up with letters and personal phone calls. Multiple schools responded and were asked to provide a list of goals as well as an outreach plan. The final selection was made based on the quality of the statement of interest as well as geographic distribution. Thirty-six high schools were selected to participate in the pilot.

HOW WILL JUST IN TIME ONLINE TUTOR BE PROMOTED?

Awareness and promotion of the pilot are being accomplished through aggressive outreach efforts at all participating school communities. These efforts include this dedicated website, brochures in English and Spanish, and bookmarks to be distributed to participating students and their families. Local public libraries will help provide access to online tutors after school, on weekends and over the summer. Efforts will also include presence at local, regional and state conferences as well as statewide meetings and videoconferences.

All participating campuses have been visited and orientation has been offered to each campus. Additional training is available in a variety of formats including face-to-face, online and via videoconference.

