

TRTF Launches Online Tutoring Program October 2020

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) is a recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization. We have a heart for helping our public-school employee retirees, as well as those still serving in our Texas schools.

TRTF's work began more than 30 years ago, and we continue to be a forward-thinking organization on the cutting edge of philanthropic outreach. We work to help educators of the past, present, and future! Our programs provide direct emergency financial assistance to retired teachers, classroom assistance grants to active educators, scholarships to beginning teachers, and urgent disaster relief.

Now, we are implementing a new program that captures the very essence of all that we stand for and work to achieve: the TRTF Tutoring Program, powered by Knack. Below you will see a synopsis of the program.

TRTF wants to:

1. **Help our students and parents** by implementing the best tutor program in the country! Having great teachers changes a student's life. The very best teachers are those in our public-school classrooms as well as those who served in our schools throughout their career. Retired educators are a generational gift! Students will receive not only excellent educational support but will engage on a multi-generational level that improves interpersonal skills.
2. **Help our Texas retired teachers** by inviting them to be paid tutors. We know that pensions paid through the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) are modest. Most TRS retirees receive little or no Social Security. Many retirees are unable or unwilling to go back to work in an environment where their health may be compromised (especially, but not exclusively, related to COVID-19). TRS retirees also suffer from chronic health concerns such as hypertension, joint ailments, and more. Our program provides a way for retirees to work in a relaxed, productive environment and still help schools as they always have.
3. **Help our public schools** by developing programs that support online learning endeavors. No group can better support our schools than the retirees who have been in the trenches and understand the challenges our teachers and administrators face daily. We understand and respect that our schools deserve dependable help and should not have to worry if an organization has an alternative agenda.

What is the TRTF Tutoring Program?

1. Our online program connects TRS retirees who want to offer tutoring services with teachers, parents, and/or students in Texas public schools needing educational support.
2. TRTF's program provides an online classroom for the retired educator and student to have the best learning environment possible.
3. After the connection is made between the retiree and student, TRTF's interaction will be limited to evaluative emails, online encouragement, and promoting the program as a

vehicle to support schools and students and offer a more secure retirement for TRS retirees.

4. The program provides a path for tutors to receive financial compensation. Donations received for the program may also serve to pay for tutoring hours at a charitable discounted rate by vendor partners we are working to identify. See the “what we think is possible” section for more detail on how the platform focuses on implementation.

What the TRTF Tutor Initiative is NOT:

1. TRTF-TBI will NOT employ anyone.
2. TRTF will NOT seek any financial gain from online tutoring sessions.
3. TRTF will not collect donations as direct pay to any individual tutor.

What we think is possible:

1. TRTF has identified a partner who can provide online classroom software and utilization tools so our tutors and students can engage in a tested and proven setting. (www.joinknack.com)
2. Three possible service levels will be available:
 - a. Direct Tutoring: Through the TRTF online classroom/Knack, a parent/guardian will provide direct payment to the tutor.
 - b. Corporate-sponsored Tutoring: As TRTF receives donations from supportive businesses, angel donors, and school foundations, grants will be made available to schools to secure block hours for no-cost tutoring.
 - c. Texas ISD Secured: As a school district submits requests for proposals (RFPs) for online tutor support, the TRTF/vendor partnership responds with our charitable connector service (free to the ISD), our online classroom, and the vendor partner’s fulfillment of online tutoring at the charitable rate (estimated at \$40 per one-hour session).

What we need to know:

Tutors

1. **Are you interested in being a tutor? Please sign up at www.trtf.org/tutors.**
2. Please be prepared to have an updated background check, as well as your TRS number and/or your teacher certification information (even if expired) available for program verification.
3. Please be prepared to provide subject matter and grade level preferences for the best matching opportunities.

Sponsors/Donors

1. TRTF needs donors and sponsors to make our program successful! We want to raise \$10 million in 30 days to donate 250,000 tutoring hours to our schools and students.
2. TRTF wants our program to grow nationally! We need funds to help us launch in other states.

3. TRTF will partner with any donor to sponsor tutoring hours and will provide high visibility for our partners. TRTA will share new of your sponsorship and support with its 100,000 members and our network of contacts in Texas and across the country.
4. If you are a private not-for-profit, an investment group with philanthropic interests, a private family trust, or are connected to such an organization and would like more information on how your financial commitment can help Texas schools, kids, and retired teachers, please contact us! TRTF can provide individual support for your donor needs.
5. TRTF wants to transform every \$40 donation into one hour of tutoring. Due to our philanthropic approach and low administrative costs, we can convert 95 percent of every dollar donated to meet the needs of children, schools, and retirees.
6. Every dollar donated achieves three charitable purposes: helping Texas public school children, active educators, and retired teachers! Many programs focus on only one of these groups. TRTF triples the impact of your donation to help all three groups simultaneously!

Schools

1. We want to work with you to fulfill your ISD's or school's online learning needs through our TRTF Tutoring Program.
2. We offer this along with our assurance that TRTF has no hidden agenda. Our sole expectation is to provide the best tutoring program in Texas!
3. If your school has an open RFP for online tutoring assistance, we would love to speak with you and tailor a solution specific to your objectives.
4. If your school needs tutoring assistance, we are happy to work with you as we receive donations for tutoring hours and make them available to our school children and educators.
5. Please contact us with any questions you may have.
6. We encourage our school leaders to share this information with school foundations, local foundation partners, and other groups or individuals who may want to partner financially with TRTF to increase our program's outreach.

Thank You!

Our schools are dealing with many unique challenges and we know school children are anxious to return to the classroom as soon as it is safe. We support all the work and time you put into serving our communities and the state through public education. Thank you! We are working as quickly as we can to help you meet your tutoring needs in a way that is uniquely Texan and supports our public schools.

Donors, please open your hearts and wallets to this program. TRTF needs your help and we appreciate your consideration. Now is the time to make every dollar count, reach every child, and engage with Texas retired educators to build a brighter future! Help us build a team of education retirees who will rally to help our kids, schools, and state. Thank You!