

# Achieve Volunteer Tutoring Program (AVTP) Overview

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## OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVE

- Mission
- Governance
- Programs Funded/  
Fundraisers

## VOLUNTEER TUTOR PROGRAM

- Overview
- Process
- Tutors
- Students Served
- Program Evaluation



The Achieve Foundation promotes high-quality education that prepares South Orange-Maplewood School District students for the future.

We support our students, families and educators by:

- addressing inequities
- inspiring innovation
- fostering community

Achieve is a registered, tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization that was incorporated (as SOMEF) in 1987.

Our priorities:

**Champion Excellence:** enhancing student experiences through meaningful programs, grants and funding that advance best educational practices

**Address Equity:** addressing the opportunity gap and unmet educational needs for vulnerable students in the District

**Build Community:** bringing together and working in coordination with stakeholders (students, families, teachers, administrators, volunteers, community at large) to strengthen and enrich educational experiences

**Deliver Solutions:** listening to stakeholders, evaluating options, and responding to evolving needs throughout the District



- The Achieve Foundation is led by a volunteer board of trustees and a small part-time staff including an executive director and a program manager.
- We collaborate closely with the School District of South Orange & Maplewood, and key representatives in the school district have stakeholder seats on our board.
  - Board of Ed
  - SOMSD Administration
  - SOMEA
  - ASCA
  - Presidents' Council





# Programs Funded



# How We Raise Funds





# AVTP Program Summary.



Providing FREE tutoring to SOMSD students since 1997

- Partnership between Achieve and the District
- Goal to address the racial and economic academic opportunity gap by offering assistance to public school students who are at academic risk and for whom the cost of private tutoring is a barrier.

Elementary and middle school students are referred by classroom teachers or counselors for the program; CHS students can also complete a request form or see Shannon in the library to sign up.

# AVTP Program Summary: Tutors

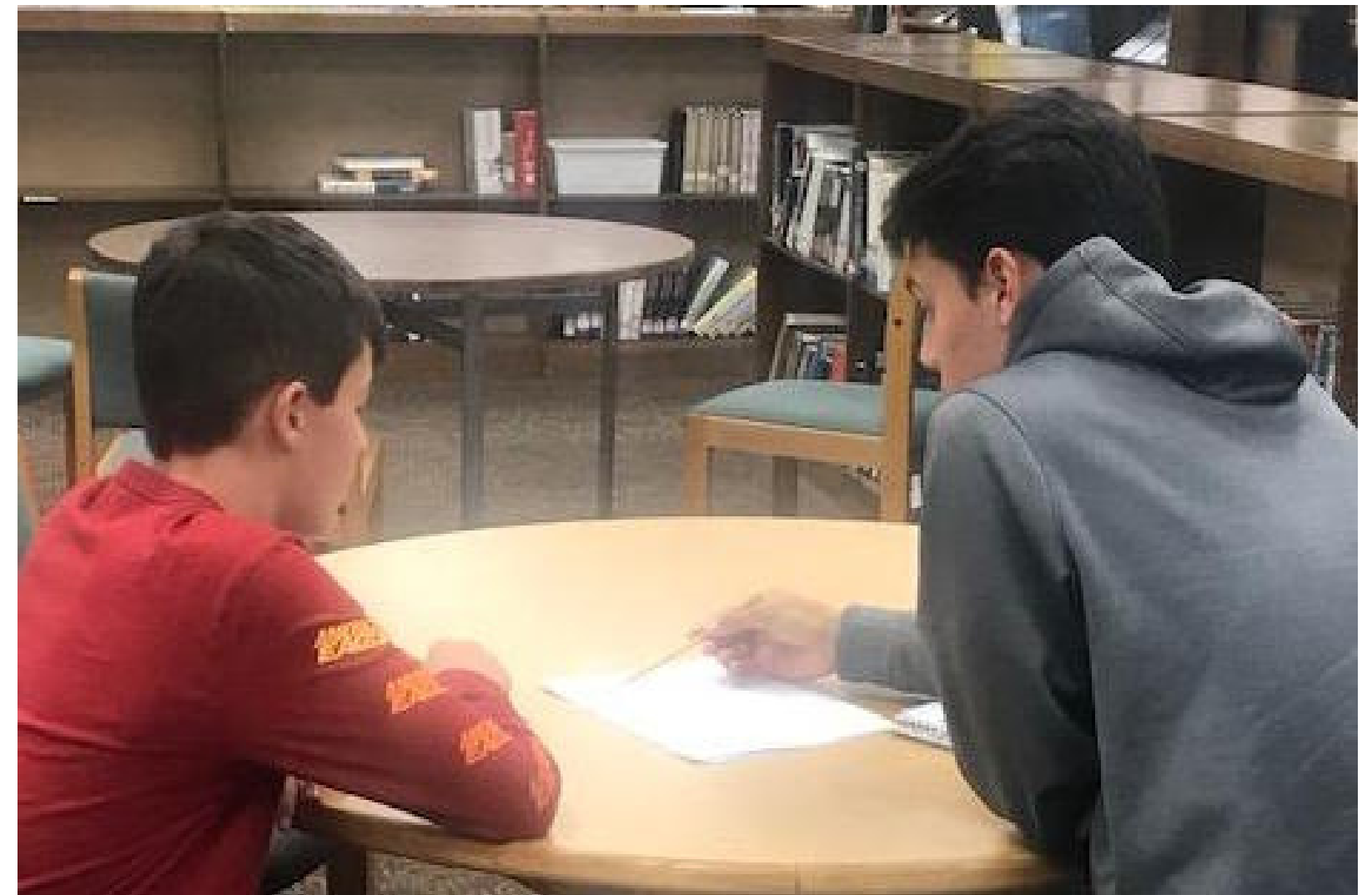
- Program manager recruits, trains and matches volunteers with students in grades K-12.
  - Adult and teen volunteers
    - NHS students required to do 20 hrs/semester
  - Serving students in all schools K-12
  - After school in each building at least one day/week
  - Wednesday evenings via Zoom and 2 sessions Saturday mornings for all grades
  - 1:1 model





# AVTP Program

- All volunteers receive training by SOMSD faculty
  - best practices, techniques
  - executive functioning/organizational skills
  - consistent w/ district curriculum
- Safety of students is paramount
  - All sessions overseen by site supervisors (SOMSD staff or AVTP coordinator)
  - Adult tutors screened, interviewed, references
    - complete criminal background check
    - all in-person adult tutors vaccinated



# AVTP by the Numbers



2018-2019

2019-Mar 2020\*

2020-2021

TUTORS

368 Volunteer Tutors

239 CHS students  
29 other HS  
7 SHU students  
55 adults  
31 middle schoolers  
7 fifth graders

367 Volunteer Tutors

228 CHS students  
42 other HS  
73 adults  
24 middle schoolers

510 Volunteer Tutors

314 CHS students  
65 other HS  
67 college students  
43 adults  
21 middle schoolers

STUDENTS SERVED

358 Tutees

102 CHS students  
79 middle schoolers  
177 elementary school students

371 Tutees

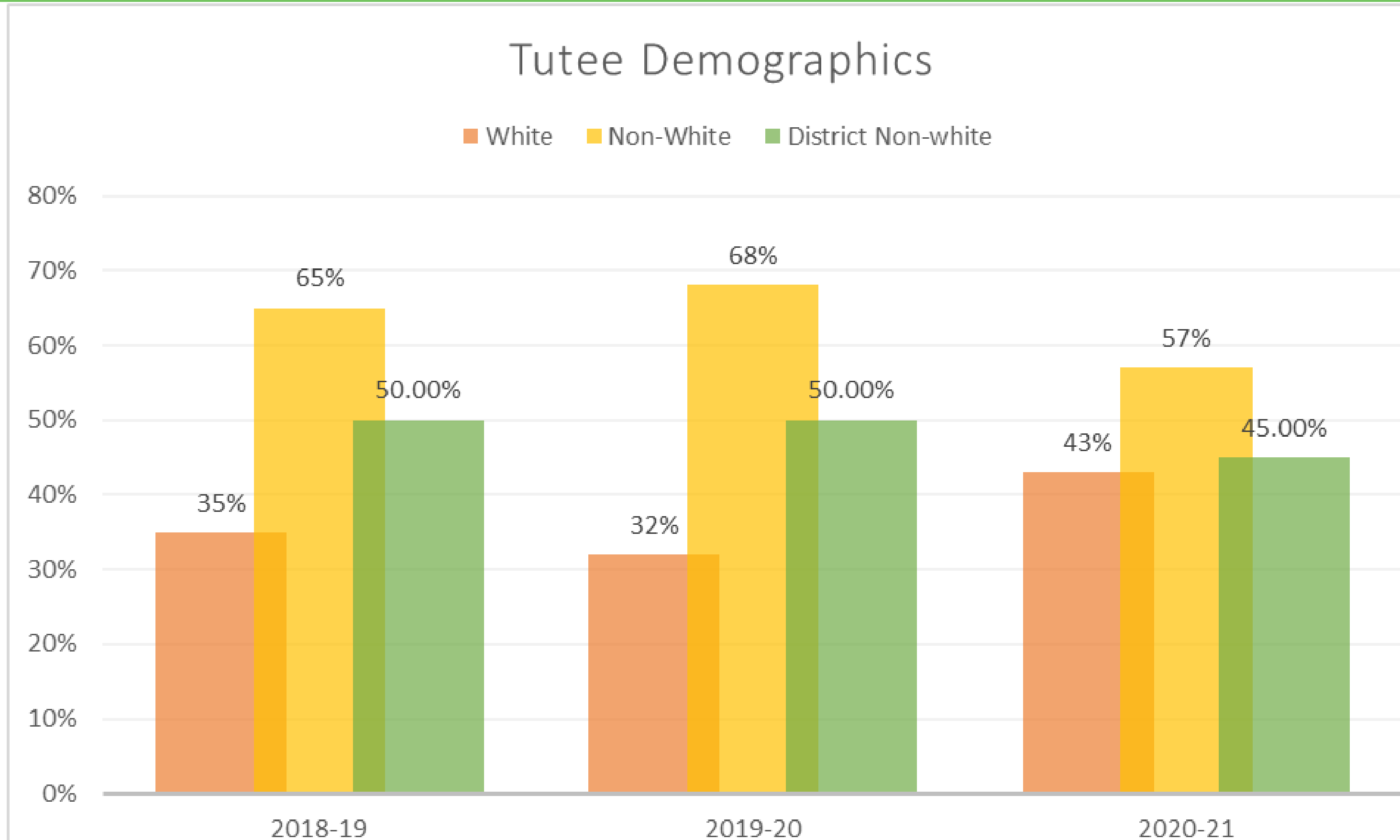
106 CHS students  
76 middle schoolers  
189 elementary school students

604 Tutees

264 CHS students  
114 middle schoolers  
226 elementary school students

\*Apr-June 2020: 141 tutors helped  
148 students in virtual sessions

# Student Demographics: Race



# Student Demographics

## ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED

2018-19

2019-20

2020-21

AVTP students served

31%

27%

16.2%

District student population

20%

20%

14.8%

*\*Economically Disadvantaged status is established when parents register their children for the federal free/reduced lunch program. The number of disadvantaged students is often underreported, due to the challenge of completing the forms and/or the concerns associated with requesting aid.*



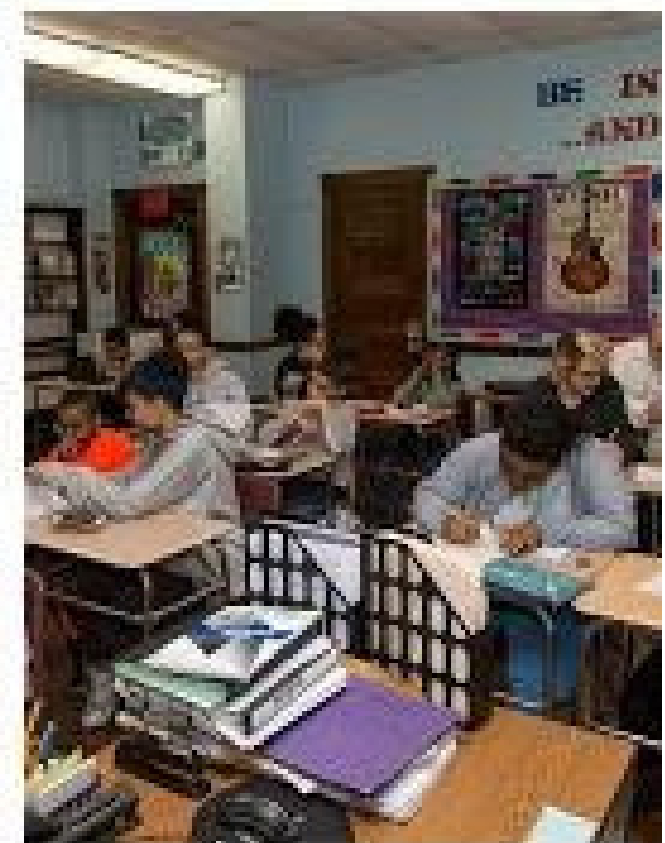
# Program Evaluation 2020-21

	TUTORS	TUTEES
Satisfaction with program*	92%	94%
Would recommend to others	99%	97%
Efforts had positive impact on tutee	94%	--
Proud of the work I did	94%	--
<u>The AVTP helped student's:</u>		
Confidence	74%	60%
Homework completion	66%	62%
Grades	40%	55%
Study habits	25%	28%
Other (social skills, English language, reading/spelling, showing work)	11%	20%

- *The pandemic impacted attendance numbers*

# Comments from Tutees/Parents

- *"Our daughter LOVED these sessions. Her tutors were kind, patient, and flexible. She was able to read, play, color, draw, talk, and play games."*
- *"There is no stigma about needing a tutor. The ability to have this resource is priceless."*
- *"The tutors were patient and made sure I actually understood the concepts on my own."*
- *"It made my kid accountable for doing homework. Also, it was nice to see the same adult figure each week, to touch base, ask questions, and just talk to. She really liked the fact that she could get one on one attention from someone."*
- *"My child really connected with her tutor and that relationship was beneficial in and of itself."*
- *"Very well organized and professional program with excellent tutors."*



# Comments from Tutors

- *"The best part to me was helping them realize what they can do and also meeting students I didn't know."*
- *"The opportunity to potentially make their school life easier and give them something fun to attend after school can be great."*
- *"Having an impact on kids."*
- *"It was so incredible to see his progress, I truly felt so proud of him. His confidence improved immeasurably and he started asking lots of questions and trying things out for himself. Seeing his drive to improve was so wonderful."*
- *"It was really nice to be able to build connections with students and help them complete work and better understand concepts while also building their confidence."*
- *"My favorite part about volunteer tutoring was when a student finally got a concept, and you could hear the excitement in their voice. :)"*



# Other AVTP Initiatives

- Homework help at CHS Loft
  - The Loft is school-based YSP offering free counseling, activities, academic and employment support.
  - Achieve offered on-site weekly tutoring in 2018; reintroduced the popular program this year.
- Essay-writing for MAC scholars
  - Piloted in 2017-18, expanded to now engage 25 volunteers who work with MAC students from spring of junior year through fall of senior on college apps
  - Professional essay coaches train volunteers and provide summer workshops for students.
- Looking forward: exploring college test prep tutoring options; music mentorship program



# Recent AVTP Challenges

- Difficulty recruiting higher-level STEM tutors
  - Specifically Physics, Calc, AP Stats
- Hopeful the District's tutoring program will fill this void and serve students for whom attendance/commitment is an issue.
  - The two programs will complement each other well.