

Educational Tutorial Services Launches Indiegogo Campaign for Global Online Tutoring Initiative Targeting Foster Youth

Instant homework assistance for youth who need to bridge learning gaps fast

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Educational Tutorial Services (E.T.S.) has initiated an Indiegogo campaign seeking funding to help launch InstantTutor, the first online tutoring service specifically for students in foster care. With 17 years providing intensive tutoring support to youth in care across the United States, E.T.S. is uniquely qualified to offer this specialized online tutoring experience.

InstantTutor was designed with foster youth in mind. It provides real-time tutoring to students to help bridge learning gaps faster. Students in foster care are more likely than any other group to have significant disruptions in their education. At least one-third of the nearly 500,000 students in care annually in this country will experience five or more different placements and that could mean changing schools as frequently.

In addition to real-time homework help and test preparation assistance, InstantTutor provides multiple language support and is 508 compliant so foster youth with visual impairments can take advantage of online tutoring. All students will have access to a library of free worksheets and be able to save tutoring sessions for future reference. Tutors and students will use a variety of tools to communicate with each other including desktop sharing, an interactive whiteboard, and live webinars.

InstantTutor is completed and ready to launch. However, Educational Tutorial Services is seeking funds through Indiegogo to reach more of the millions of foster youth around the world than cannot currently be helped by the program. They propose accomplishing this by using donations to pay for additional user licenses and hire more tutors, implement an aggressive advertising and marketing strategy, and have the necessary personnel in place to provide program and technical support to students, caregivers, and tutors.

The primary goal of E.T.S.'s innovative crowdfunding campaign is to give all foster youth access to quality tutors who can help them catch up with their peers. "What makes us different, in addition to the student population we are targeting, is the qualifications of our tutors. In addition to being degreed teachers, they are trained to work with foster youth in any tutoring setting. Our online tutoring program also has features not available with other tutoring services. For example, we expect our 'Ask A Question' feature will distinguish us from competitors," says Lisa Russell, CEO of Educational Tutorial Services.

The idea is to make it easy for foster youth to get the help they need. One way to do that is to allow students to ask a single question rather than register for an entire session. Although

E.T.S.'s online tutoring program is open to all students who need help, foster youth get discounts when they use InstantTutor.

"We must adapt to the way youth learn today in order to be effective teachers. Online tutoring is another delivery method for quality instruction. Since our focus has been on foster youth in our private tutoring services, it makes sense we would expand to provide online options to those same students. Significantly, InstantTutor allows us to reach more youth in care, regardless of their location," states Ms. Russell.

Learn more about this education initiative and ways you can support it at Indiegogo: www.indiegogo.com/. You can learn more about Educational Tutorial Services at www.educationaltutorialservices.com.

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