Sage Oak Charter Schools Accelerates Student Growth Through a Comprehensive Tutoring Strategy

How High-Dosage Tutoring Helped Students Achieve Meaningful Gains in Mathematics

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Executive Summary

To strengthen academic intervention efforts and provide students with greater access to personalized support, Sage Oak Charter Schools partnered with Tutor.com to integrate High-Dosage Tutoring (HDT) into its Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework. Sage Oak created a scalable tutoring model that helped students strengthen foundational skills, build confidence, and accelerate academic progress.

The results were significant. Across four HDT cohorts, 68% of students demonstrated one year or more of gains on i-Ready assessments, with 90% of students demonstrating measurable growth.

By incorporating HDT into its MTSS framework, Sage Oak created a comprehensive support system that helped students strengthen foundational math skills, close learning gaps, and build confidence. Strong growth outcomes, coupled with exceptional student engagement, demonstrated the value of providing structured intervention and academic support.

About Sage Oak Charter Schools

Sage Oak Charter Schools is a public, tuition-free charter school serving TK–12 students throughout Southern California. Through its Virtual Learning Academy, Personalized Learning Academy, and High School Program, Sage Oak provides flexible educational pathways designed to meet the diverse needs of learners.

The Challenge

Like many schools and districts across the country, Sage Oak faced the ongoing challenge of addressing academic gaps among students performing below grade-level in mathematics.

Prior to implementing the HDT program, Sage Oak identified several challenges that were limiting student achievement and growth. The decision to adopt HDT was informed by three key needs:

- **Addressing Learning Loss and Achievement Gaps:** Analysis of Student Information Portal (SIP) data indicated that, to further advance its commitment to personalized learning and support individualized pathways to student success, Sage Oak needed to expand its intervention offerings. In addition, scheduling constraints prevented certain students from

accessing available support. HDT provided an additional intervention option to better meet students' academic and scheduling needs.

- **Expanding Effective Interventions Through Data:** The school sought a solution that could be implemented on a broader scale while maintaining compliance requirements and providing actionable data to evaluate program effectiveness. HDT offered an opportunity to implement a scalable intervention model and assess its impact through ongoing performance monitoring.
- **Supporting Strategic Academic Goals:** As part of the school's mathematics improvement strategy, leaders aimed to incorporate innovative educational technologies and evidence-based practices into student support services. HDT aligned with these objectives by delivering personalized, research-based tutoring designed to help students who were at risk of falling behind.

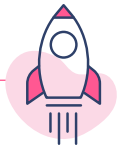
While their MTSS framework provided a strong foundation for identifying students who needed support, school leaders recognized the need to expand intervention opportunities beyond traditional instructional settings. Students often required additional assistance reinforcing concepts, completing assignments, preparing for assessments, and building confidence in their academic abilities.

The Solution

To address these needs, Sage Oak partnered with Tutor.com to implement an HDT tutoring model within its MTSS framework.

Beginning in the 2024–2025 school year, Sage Oak launched Tutor.com's HDT program for Tier 2 intervention students. Students participated in structured, small-group, 30-minute tutoring sessions 3 times a week for 12 weeks, providing consistent, targeted instruction focused on strengthening foundational mathematical skills.

The Implementation and Launch



A successful HDT program begins with a strong partnership and a shared commitment to meeting students where they are. From the outset, Tutor.com worked closely with Sage Oak Charter Schools to design an implementation approach that aligned with the school's unique virtual learning environment and the needs of its students and families.

Unlike traditional HDT programs that take place in classrooms under the supervision of teachers, Sage Oak students participate in tutoring from home with support from parents and guardians. Recognizing this difference, Tutor.com collaborated with Sage Oak to develop tailored resources, best practices, and guidance materials for both educators and families. These tools helped ensure that students received consistent support, that families understood how to encourage participation and engagement, and that teachers had meaningful information to discuss student progress and outcomes.

Throughout the course of tutoring sessions, Tutor.com maintained regular communication with Sage Oak staff and closely monitored key indicators such as attendance, engagement, and tutoring session feedback. This collaborative approach enabled both organizations to identify opportunities for continuous improvement and ensured students remained on track to achieve their academic goals.

One of the most encouraging outcomes was seeing students build confidence and perseverance through the tutoring process. Tutor feedback frequently highlighted students' willingness to tackle challenging concepts, persist through difficult problems, and develop stronger problem-solving skills—qualities that support long-term academic success both inside and outside the classroom.

The Results

Context

During Academic Year 2024-25 and 2025-26, four cohorts of Sage Oak students received High Dosage Tutoring (HDT) as a Tier 2 intervention. Cohorts received three, 30-minute sessions per week for approximately 12 weeks or a total of 36 sessions/18 hours of tutoring.

- Students in grades 4-8 received Elementary or Middle School Math HDT.
- High School Students (Cohorts 3 and 4 only) received Middle School Math HDT aligned with 8th grade math and Algebra I content.

HDT Math Cohorts

Cohort	School Level	Start Date	End Date
1	Elementary/Middle	Oct. 29, 2024	Feb. 13, 2025
2	Elementary/Middle	Feb. 25, 2025	May 22, 2025
3	Elementary/Middle and High School	Oct. 14, 2025	Jan. 28, 2026
4	Elementary/Middle and High School	Feb. 10, 2026	May 7, 2026

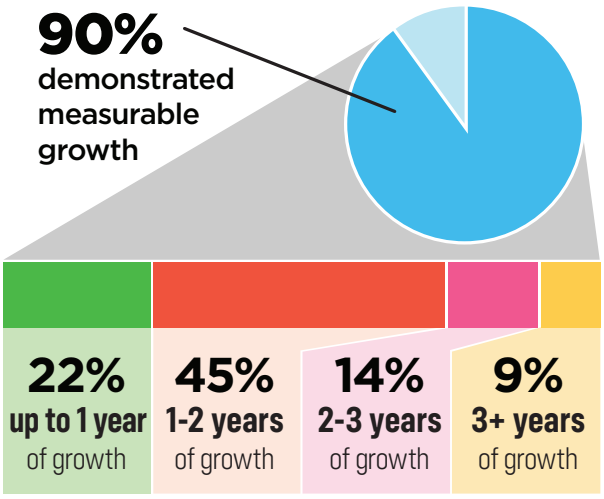
The i-Ready outcomes measured for Elementary and Middle School students in School Year 2024-25 prompted Sage Oak to expand HDT to High School students during the 2025-26 school year.

HDT Accelerated Academic Growth: Elementary and Middle School

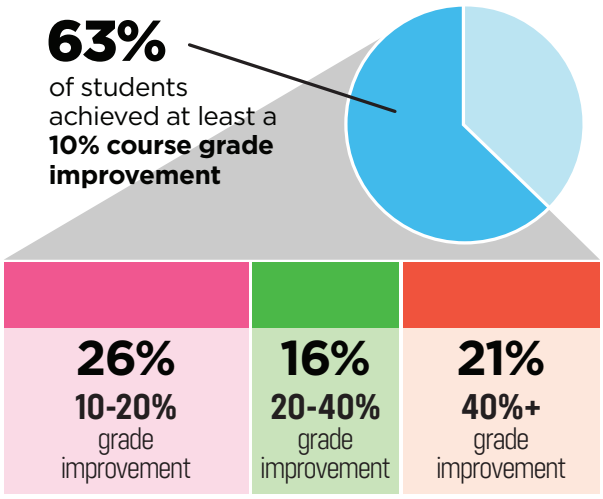
Outcomes for Elementary and Middle School students were measured using i-Ready assessments from either Beginning of the Year (BOY) to Middle of the Year (MOY) or Middle of the Year (MOY) to End of the Year (EOY), with the following results:

- **22%** of students achieved up to 1 year of growth.
- **45%** of students achieved 1-2 years of growth.
- **14%** of students achieved 2-3 years of growth.
- **9%** of students achieved more than 3 years of growth.

HDT Accelerated Academic Growth:
Elementary and Middle School



HDT Accelerated Academic Growth:
High School



Overall, **68%** of Elementary and Middle School students who received 12 weeks of HDT demonstrated one year or more gains on i-Ready assessments, with **90% of students** demonstrating measurable growth. These outcomes demonstrate the impact of consistent, relationship-based tutoring delivered within a structured intervention model.

> **The student that was in my intervention class and HDT scored out of intervention the next year. HDT helped her build confidence and realize she could be successful in math."**
>
> *— Brandyn Nelson, Math Intervention Teacher, Sage Oak Charter Schools*

HDT Accelerated Academic Growth: High School

Outcomes for High School students were measured using math course grade improvement. On average, after 12 weeks:

- **20%** of students achieved up to 10% course grade increase.
- **26%** of students achieved a 10-20% course grade increase.
- **16%** of students achieved a 20-40% course grade increase.
- **21%** of students achieved a 40% or higher course grade increase.

Overall, **63%** of students achieved at least a 10% course grade improvement. High School cohorts achieved a **median 18% grade improvement** after 12 weeks of participation.

Beyond the Data: Building Student Confidence

Educators also observed meaningful improvements in student confidence, engagement, and perseverance. They reported that students participating in tutoring demonstrated stronger foundational mathematics skills, greater confidence when approaching challenging concepts, and increased willingness to participate during instruction.

> **Honestly, the amount of growth surprised me. I saw students develop greater confidence and resilience when approaching challenging math problems. For them to go from late 3rd grade to early 5th grade performance levels was more growth than I anticipated."**
>
> *— Kimi Smith, Personalized Learning Teacher, Sage Oak Charter Schools*

> **Tutor.com has been an essential part of our efforts to provide equitable, personalized support that really makes a difference."**
>
> *— Chenin Northgrave, Assistant Director of Student Services, Sage Oak Charter Schools*

Conclusion

Sage Oak's partnership with Tutor.com demonstrates how schools and districts can successfully integrate HDT within a comprehensive MTSS framework to support student achievement. By implementing HDT for targeted intervention, Sage Oak expanded opportunities for students to receive personalized support and produced measurable gains in mathematics achievement.

For schools and districts seeking strategies to address learning gaps and improve student outcomes, Sage Oak's model demonstrates how structured intervention, data-informed decision-making, and strong implementation can accelerate learning and strengthen student confidence.