



HIGH STAKES BIG IMPACT



Experience Corps works with students who have the greatest need, teaching one of the hardest and most critical skills to learn and producing measurable, meaningful results.

“**This research shows that Experience Corps tutors can increase student reading skills. That’s great news for parents, children, educators, and the many people of all ages who want to respond to President Obama’s call to service and want to know that their efforts will make a significant difference.**”

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Experience Corps tutors improve young students’ reading comprehension, one of the toughest skills to affect for struggling readers.

Students who work with Experience Corps tutors for a single school year experience more than 60 percent greater gains in two critical literacy skills—sounding out new words and reading comprehension—compared to similar students who were not served by Experience Corps.

Results include findings from a new, independent, rigorous study of more than 800 first, second, and third grade students at 23 urban schools in three cities.

The two-year, \$2 million study was conducted by researchers at Washington University in St. Louis and Mathematica Policy Research, and funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies. It builds on research from Johns Hopkins University that looked at how Experience Corps affects children, schools, and the tutors themselves.

As an intervention, Experience Corps compares to smaller class size.

Students with Experience Corps tutors get a boost in reading skills equivalent to the boost they would get from being assigned to a classroom with 40 percent fewer children.

Students gain significantly in reading achievement.

Research from Washington University in St. Louis demonstrates the impact of Experience Corps and adds to other rigorous research findings from Johns Hopkins University. For example, in Baltimore, third graders working with Experience Corps scored significantly higher on a statewide reading test than students at similar schools without Experience Corps.

Experience Corps helps the students who need it most.

Half of all students who are referred to Experience Corps struggle so much with reading that they are at or below the 16th percentile nationwide. And Experience Corps delivers significant results for students regardless of gender, ethnicity, grade, classroom behavior, or English proficiency.

1995 Founded
Focus Literacy and mentoring for high-need students
2,000 Members
170 Schools
20,000 Students served annually
600,000 Service hours annually
23 Cities

Locations

Annapolis, MD
 Baltimore, MD
 Baltimore County, MD
 Beaumont, TX
 Boston, MA
 Cleveland, OH
 Evansville, IN
 Grand Rapids, MI
 Greater New Haven, CT
 Marin County, CA
 Mesa, AZ
 Minneapolis, MN
 New York City, NY
 Oakland, CA
 Philadelphia, PA
 Port Arthur, TX
 Portland, OR
 Revere, MA
 San Francisco, CA
 St. Paul, MN
 Tempe, AZ
 Tucson, AZ
 Washington, DC

National sponsors

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An award-winning national program, Experience Corps engages people over 55 in meeting their communities' greatest challenges. Today, 2,000 Experience Corps members in 23 cities tutor and mentor young students struggling to learn to read.



The Experience Corps intervention is cost effective and welcomed by teachers.

The average cost of Experience Corps per tutored student is about \$500 per year. Teachers overwhelmingly rate Experience Corps as beneficial to students, while reporting that it represents little or no burden to their workload.

Schools report reduced discipline problems, better learning environments.

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University found that office referrals for classroom misbehavior decreased by about half in schools with Experience Corps teams, but stayed the same in control-group schools.

Experience Corps members provide a bridge between schools and communities.

Experience Corps members serve as tutors and role models who reflect the communities in which they live; more than half are African American. One in five is a former educator. The intergenerational interaction Experience Corps provides helps build respect, caring, and civility in relationships and communities.

Experience Corps members benefit from improved physical, mental, and social well-being.

Compared with adults of similar age, demographics, and volunteer history, Experience Corps tutors reported improvements in mental health and physical functioning (including mobility, stamina, and flexibility), experienced a significant decrease in levels of depression and functional limitation, increased their circle of friends, and maintained overall health longer.

What makes Experience Corps successful?

Focus on outcomes	Produces measurable results for students, schools, and older adults
High member commitment	Ensures reliable, consistent support to students
Rigorous member training	Provides highly qualified tutors and mentors for students, and new skills for members
Team-based approach	Creates peer support network; establishes significant presence in schools
Community roots	Connects schools and communities; fosters public/private partnerships