Video transcript:
Effectiveness of the Tutor Learning Initiative

About this audit

Falling behind at school in literacy or numeracy can have life-long effects, so it's important that affected students get support to catch up and succeed in the classroom.

In 2021, the Victorian Government launched the Tutor Learning Initiative to provide targeted, small group learning for students who need it most. The government committed 1.2 billion dollars to fund it until 2025.

In this audit, we looked at whether the initiative is helping students in government schools to better engage with learning and improve their results.

What we concluded

We found that the initiative is not improving students' learning results. For the initiative to be effective, we expect students receiving tutoring to show greater learning growth than similar students who are not.

However, for the period we looked at this was not the case. Looking at test scores, non-tutored students improved more than their tutored counterparts.

We identified 2 issues.

Issue 1

First, although government schools have offered the tutoring initiative since 2021, in 2023 fewer than one-third of them had fully effective tutoring practices.

While schools were generally able to deliver tutoring when students needed, the tutoring was not always well connected to students' classroom learning or specific learning needs.

This may be partly due to the impact of workforce shortages.

Issue 2

Second, the Department of Education could do more to improve schools' tutoring practices. The department does monitor how schools deliver tutoring, and it has data on student outcomes.

It needs to use this information to drive improvements in schools so that the Tutor Learning Initiative supports students as intended.

What we recommended

We made 3 recommendations to the department. Two about improving the delivery of the initiative and one about state-wide education programs.

More information

To find out more, or read our full report, go to audit.vic.gov.au