



# THE HECHINGER REPORT

*Jill Barshay highlighted the successes and challenges of integrating high-dosage tutoring into the education system. The article especially notes the impact of attendance on success rates. Beyond Basics wanted to share our knowledge and experience with readers. Cofounder and CEO Pamela Good's thoughts are available after the [article](#) as well as shared below.*

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Dear Editor,

Jill Barshay, in her well-researched August 1 report on “high-dosage” tutoring, discusses the role of attendance in determining success for students who are receiving intensive reading interventions. We thank her for illuminating this issue.

At Beyond Basics, we provide personal, prescriptive literacy intervention to the K-12 students who are farthest behind in reading. Our daily program is embedded within the school day schedule, often in struggling districts.

We agree that attendance is a significant issue for students in vulnerable communities. Many of them are persevering without the basics of life, including shelter, food, and transportation. We don't write these students off for poor attendance. Rather, we challenge ourselves to work harder to help them show up, provide excellent services, and look for results. We designed a data-driven model that closely monitors student standing and progress. When faced with absence, we work with school partners to locate students to bring them back to class. If a student is out, we draw from a pool of waiting students so that our interventionists can continue to provide services during that tutoring hour. This model allows us to be fiscally responsible while continuing to offer tutoring to the most struggling students. For every grade level of movement, it is life changing for them.

Holding ourselves to this high standard, our third-party verified outcomes show that even without perfect (or consistently high) attendance, highest-dosage tutoring works. Some of our high school alumni have gone on to build their own companies, join the armed forces, and work as Google engineers.

Attendance is a challenge, and there is a cost involved. But at a time when the national proficiency rate for fourth graders is 34 percent, we must ask how much are we willing to extend ourselves on behalf of our precious children?

We cannot wait any longer to produce results. Students are capable. They're counting on us.

Sincerely,

**Pamela Good, Beyond Basics CEO and cofounder**