



Date: January 29, 2026

To: Honorable Shelley Mayer, Chair, Senate Education Committee
Honorable Michael Benedetto, Chair, Assembly Education Committee
Honorable Liz Krueger, Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Honorable Gary Pretlow, Chair, Assembly Ways and Means Committee

From: Larry Berger, Chief Executive Officer, Amplify
Alanna Phelan, Senior Vice President, Tutoring, Amplify

Subject: Written Testimony: 2026 Joint Legislative Budget Hearing, Elementary Education/Secondary Education

Thank you, Chairs Krueger, Pretlow, Mayer, Benedetto, and distinguished members of the legislature, for the opportunity to provide written testimony. We urge the New York State Legislature to invest in high-impact tutoring programs that support students across the state. Research shows that high-impact tutoring is one of the most effective academic interventions, often producing gains greater than those achieved through other approaches, including reduced class sizes.

We strongly support Governor Kathy Hochul's proposed \$9 million investment in high-impact tutoring. However, we respectfully request that the Legislature increase this investment to a full \$10 million to further strengthen and expand these programs statewide. High-impact tutoring efforts already underway are showing promising results for students, and increased funding would allow more districts to benefit from these outcomes.

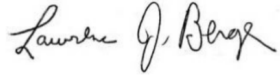
For these programs to succeed, clear and evidence-based guidelines must be in place. High-impact tutoring involves frequent sessions—at least three 30-minute sessions weekly—during the school day with small groups (up to a 1:4 ratio) and a consistent, well-trained tutor, who receives upfront training and ongoing professional development and coaching. High-impact tutoring uses high-quality, research-backed instructional materials and data-driven instruction.

Amplify Tutoring, a leader in literacy tutoring grounded in the Science of Reading, has tutored over 30,000 students in the last three years alone, including students participating in the NYC Public Schools High Impact Tutoring Initiative and in Buffalo, NY. In addition to directly tutoring students, we help districts launch their own tutoring programs and equip their educators and tutors with research-backed materials. Amplify Tutoring materials have supported over 540,000 students across the country over the last three school years. In Buffalo, New York, we have also partnered with the Cullen Foundation to assist five schools in designing and implementing high-impact tutoring programs.

Our data underscores the power of high-impact tutoring. For example, 70% of students in a large urban district who regularly attended Amplify Tutoring sessions achieved above-average growth in reading on a nationally normed assessment, compared to 48% of similarly at-risk peers in the same schools who received other types of instruction. Initially, 97% of these students identified for tutoring scored below grade level, with demographics reflecting the district's diversity, including 74% African American, 75% Title 1, and 10% English Learners.

We respectfully urge you to support this investment to ensure all New York students have the opportunity to succeed academically. Thank you for considering this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Larry Berger in black ink.

Larry Berger
Chief Executive Officer, Amplify

Handwritten signature of Alanna Phelan in black ink.

Alanna Phelan
Sr. Vice President, Amplify Tutoring

Cc: Mary Gardner, Senior Director Government Relations, Amplify