Homework Help
Online, Free... Available for All Learners
Provided Through Minnesota Libraries

This initiative provides online, free homework help services to learners across the state through their public library. The project offers a unique blend of one-to-one homework help from qualified tutors, state-aligned skills building, test preparation, and writing assistance. A contracted homework help vendor will give access to high-quality after-school help from expert tutors in multiple subjects to prepare students for college or just get through the evening’s assignment.

Features:
• Targeted to students in grades 3 – 12, but has no limitations for learners of any age.
• Subject areas range from English to Math to Social Studies and Science.
• Flexible hours of operations, seven days a week, approximately 10 hours per day.
• Accessible at the public library or remotely from any computer at school or home.
• Available in both English and Spanish languages.
• Mobile application
• Students and tutors are 100% anonymous.
• Students never need to create a personal account or register with a username.

Public libraries throughout the seven-county metro area, plus the Rochester and Austin Public Libraries, have offered this service for a number of years. The success of the program is demonstrated by large usage numbers and excellent comments by students of all ages. (Due to a lack of funding, the program at the Rochester library was discontinued in the Fall of 2012.)

As a supplement to the Electronic Library of Minnesota (ELM), this initiative contributes to leveling the playing field for all Minnesota students. It allows students (and parents) to ask for homework assistance without feeling embarrassed or ashamed that they don’t know how to solve a problem. It helps to eliminate the geographic and availability barriers that sometimes limit a student’s ability to get help from the library.

If funded, a vendor to supply the product will be selected through a “Request for Proposal” process.
Tracking Results Is Easy

For example, after each session students are asked the following questions:

- **Number of tutoring sessions**: 6143*
- **Average length of tutoring session**: 28 minutes
- **Are you glad your organization offers this service?**: 90.50%
- **Would you recommend this service to a friend?**: 78.50%
- **Is Homework Help helping you complete your homework assignments?**: 77.25%
- **Is Homework Help helping you improve your grades?**: 57.58%
- **Is Homework Help helping you be more confident about your school work?**: 60.42%

*Rochester Public Library, Homework Help Statistics, September 2010-August 2011

Comments from Users

In addition, students are asked to make additional comments after each survey is completed. The following comments are all made by students or parents.

“This tutoring thing really helps. Now I can answer questions I would have been embarrassed to ask in class.”

“Arthur was really helpful. If you stop offering this, I will fail math. It’s an amazing service.”

“This is the student’s mother and I AM VERY proud of what Philip taught to my daughter! I thank you.”

“My dad travels on business and my mom can’t help me with my math. I’d be lost without this! The people that help me are nice, and I like that there is a real person available to help me.”

“As a mother, thank you so much for this service.”

“Amazing! So helpful! I go on whenever I don’t understand an assignment.”

“The people that help are very nice. They know what they are doing and they can explain it to me really easily.”

“This is a great service that you provide. I like the blackboard thing.”

“It is very helpful.”

“Homework help is amazing and helpful. Thank you for this service.”

“This program is an awesome way to receive help, especially if one is not able to ask an advisory or parent for assistance. It is also incredibly for me since I am in a higher level math class and my parents don’t always know the answers.”