

Got Homework?

by Marc Galbraith, Deputy State Librarian

With encouragement from the Governor and lots of librarians, the Kansas legislature provided the funding necessary to allow the State Library to license Tutor.com's "Live Homework Help."

"HomeworkKansas" is what we've dubbed the Tutor product here in Kansas. HomeworkKansas has one mission and that is to connect Kansas students with live tutors in one-on-one homework sessions. Connecting to a HomeworkKansas tutor is an easy, two-click process. Students will access the service using their Kansas Library Card or via their local public library.

Once connected to a live tutor, the student's homework session commences with use of chat technology, a whiteboard and a variety of easy to use tools. Most sessions last twenty minutes, though there is no specified time limit per session and no limit to the number of sessions a student may have with HomeworkKansas during any one day, week, month or year.

All of the tutors provided by HomeworkKansas are either certified teachers, college professors or graduate students, and each is an expert in a particular subject field. Each tutor also goes through an extensive screening and background check, followed by training and ongoing evaluations to assure quality. Students are asked to rate each tutoring session.

HomeworkKansas will be available seven days a week from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The service will also be available in Spanish Sunday through Thursday, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The official HomeworkKansas kickoff is scheduled for September 6, 2006. We will make the website available in advance of the kickoff to give library staff and teachers time to practice on their own and/or with students.

Training is a critical element in assuring all students have access to this great educational resource. Recognizing that, State Library and Tutor.com have scheduled online training sessions for public library staff. The online training session dates will be announced very soon. Tutor.com has also offered to do onsite training for public or school library staff and/or patrons. For more information about onsite training please contact Nancy Taylor at NTaylor@TUTOR.com.

Customized posters, press release copy, bookmarks and more are available at the Tutor.com "Client" Web site at <http://clients.tutor.com/libraries/promotions/>. These materials are provided by Tutor.com to make it easier for libraries to share the good news about HomeworkKansas.

We're planning a big media event for the official kickoff date. Please watch for details.

You will find additional HomeworkKansas information posted on the “HomeworkKansas Q & A Blog” at <http://homeworkkansashelp.blogspot.com>.