

PURPOSE: To give MSMS students Paper accounts.

INTRODUCED BY: Jake Heisler

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND
SCIENCE SENATE:**

SECTION ONE (REASONING):

Paper is an online service that provides virtual, chat-based, 24/7 tutoring to students in a variety of subjects like math, English, and languages. One of their features is the ability to connect to a tutor at any time to discuss problems in a class. For example, if a student in Calculus I was having trouble understanding a problem on their review, they could go to a Paper tutor. The same goes for other subjects like Chemistry, Biology, Physics, etc.

While we already have math peer tutors, we don't have peer tutors for other STEM subjects. Also, the math peer tutors are not available 24/7 like Paper tutors. There's also a high chance that a student in a higher-level math class — Calculus III, Multivariable Calculus, Differential Equations, etc. — would be hard-pressed to find a math peer tutor who has already completed that class. Similarly, students in Independent Studies or taking a class on their own time would have trouble finding someone to help them directly without Paper. The big difference between math peer tutors and Paper math tutors is the peer part. Both have their importance.

The benefits of Paper extend beyond just STEM classes. They also have English tutors willing to help with starting an essay, how to approach a writing project, brainstorming ideas, and more. For a longer, more in-depth review of an already written project, students can upload the file to a separate part of Paper and will receive a document with suggestions and tips a few days later. While we already have English peer tutors, some essays may be for a scholarship, summer program, or college application, and they're very personal as a result. It may be uncomfortable for students to share that essay with someone they go to school with. With Paper, however, they can feel more comfortable with getting feedback. The English peer tutors are also not available 24/7 like the Paper peer tutors.

Paper also helps students with foreign language classes. Students can enter a chat with a foreign language tutor and have texting or speaking conversations with their tutor. Either is very important for developing an understanding of a foreign language. The foreign language tutors also function similarly to the other peer tutors. While they can just engage in a conversation with students, they can also help with homework or studying.

While there may be concerns about the price of giving MSMS students a Paper account, the Mississippi Department of Education has a partnership with Paper to provide its services to any district free of charge. So, this would be a benefit to students at no extra cost to the school.

To be clear, this resolution is not proposing Paper as a replacement for tutorials or peer tutoring. Tutorials and peer tutoring will continue as normal. Paper will just be an additional resource for students who can't find the help they need with other tutoring offerings.

SECTION TWO (APPENDIX):

Quote From [Paper](#):

“Because of the [Mississippi] state-level partnership, districts can opt in to the program, allowing them to offer the service to students at no charge to the district. Tutoring will also be free to students.”

Paper Tutor Content Coverage:

<https://content.paper.co/hubfs/Paper%20Subjects%20Covered%20-%20Content%20Area%20Coverage%20-%202023.pdf>

*Paper says that if a subject a student is taking is not seen on there, they likely have tutors available to lend support.

Response One (Nina Weinstein, Goen Junior & MSMS Math Peer Tutor):

“I think this is a really good idea. I think specifically for MSMS students, we tend to have a lot of more difficult assignments, so having access to a website like Paper will help with those and take a load off of the MSMS tutors so all students will have access to equal tutoring opportunities. I think it will be super helpful for students self-studying for classes or doing independent studies too. I think it's important that MSMS students can get the help they need when they need it, and I think Paper will definitely help with that.

Response Two (Adair Gaines, Goen Senior & MSMS English Peer Tutor):

“Even though MSMS has a lot of other tutoring opportunities like tutorials or peer tutoring, Paper could be a way to seriously help students who might have trouble asking for help in a one-on-one fashion. I see no reason why we shouldn't have Paper.”

Response Three (JT Sistrunk, Frazer Junior & MSMS Math Peer Tutor):

“I don't see why students shouldn't have access to Paper. It seems beneficial, it's free, and people can choose not to use it if they don't want to.

Response Four (Joey Knight, Frazer Senior, MSMS Math Peer Tutor, & MSMS English Peer Tutor):

“I think this is definitely something that can be brought to discussion. Having an alternate tutoring resource would be beneficial to students.