



THINK THROUGH MATH TEXAS SUMMER SUCCESS TOOLKIT FOR PARENTS

Texas SUCCESS provides state-funded access to interactive math and reading programs for Texas students in grades 3–8. This means *free* access to both math and reading programs! The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has selected Think Through Math, a groundbreaking Web-based math program, as the Texas SUCCESS math provider. To get more information about Texas SUCCESS, please visit www.texassuccess.org.

Research shows that students typically lose over 1–3 months of math learning during the summer months¹. This summer, you can help your child overcome the “summer slide” by encouraging your student to utilize Think Through Math for a few hours a week.

HOW THINK THROUGH MATH (TTM) WORKS

Motivation

Think Through Math starts out by establishing an environment in which students want to do more math. This is accomplished through the student motivation program. As students work on TTM, they earn points. Students are awarded points for both their effort and their achievement. In that way, students are not only rewarded for doing more math, but also encouraged to do their best. With these points, students can decorate their own avatar, make a donation to a charity, or compete to earn rewards for their class.

In addition, Think Through Math holds exciting contests throughout the year, such as *The Texas Math – Everybody’s Doing It!* summer contest. Over the summer, students statewide will be competing in different divisions to see which districts will be named the summer state champions. TTM will recognize the top districts and students in the state, with T-shirts, an awards luncheon, and other cool prizes. Information on the contest can be found by going to www.tmtexas.com/texasmath.

Adaptive Content

Think Through Math will provide a series of lessons designed to help your student better understand the content that is critical for success in math at his or her grade level.

Each lesson consists of several activities, each one designed for a specific purpose. Some lessons provide more support in the form of answer feedback, Learning Coach Help, and Live Teacher Help. Other lessons ask students to be more independent. Below is a list of these activities and their general properties:

PLACEMENT TEST: When students first start using TTM, they take a Placement Test that assesses at what grade level they are able to consistently answer questions correctly. On that basis, TTM may automatically assign additional lessons to help students better understand the mathematics at their grade level. Here are a couple of key tips for the Placement Test:

- ▶ Students will only take the Placement Test one time in a given pathway.
- ▶ As the Placement Test progresses, students will encounter math content that they have never seen before. This is necessary to determine the level at which students are working. Simply encourage your student to try working out the problems and make an earnest attempt to solve them.

¹Alexander, K. L., Entwisle, D. R., & Olson, L. S. (2007). *Summer learning and its implications: Insights from the Beginning School Study*. *New Directions for Youth Development*, 2007: 11–32.



PRE-QUIZ: This activity is designed to assess student understanding of the content. TTM does not provide feedback, Learning Coach Help, or Live Teacher Help in this activity. Students who earn at least an 80% may be allowed to skip the rest of the activities in this lesson and move on to the next lesson in their pathway.

WARM UP: This activity has students work through problems they should already understand, to prepare for the material they are going to be learning.

FOCUS: The Focus provides students with an overview of the material they are about to work on. Students may want to take some notes during the Focus. *NOTE: Not every lesson has the Focus activity.*

GUIDED LEARNING: This is the activity in which TTM starts working on helping students understand a concept. Students automatically get feedback for correct and incorrect answers, but, here, they can click the Learning Coach image to ask for more math help. If students get really stuck, they can even get Live Help from certified math teachers. It is important that students read the on-screen feedback and use the help that is provided.

PROBLEM SOLVING PROCESS (PSP): This activity asks students to work through a process for solving real-world problems. As with Guided Learning, students will receive feedback and also have access to help from their Learning Coach, as well as Live Help from certified math teachers. *NOTE: Not every lesson has the PSP activity.*

During this activity, students practice the problem-solving process:

Understand what the problem is asking them to do.

Organize the information within the problem.

Build a word equation that represents how they might solve the problem.

Solve the problem, and answer to the question being asked.

Reflect on what they did, to enhance their understanding.

PRACTICE: This activity asks students to work more independently as they practice solving problems. While they still get feedback for correct and incorrect answers, students do not have access to either the Learning Coach or the Live Teacher Help.

POST QUIZ: This activity is just like the Pre-Quiz. Students who earn at least a 70% on this quiz will pass the lesson and move on to the next lesson in their pathway. If they earn less than a 70%, the program will assign other lessons that help build their understanding before they try the failed lesson again.



PARENT ACCOUNT – HOW TO SIGN UP

Using the Think Through Math parent account, Texas parents have the opportunity to monitor their student’s progress. You will need to know your student’s TTM username and password to use the full benefit of your TTM parent access. To sign up for a Think Through Math parent account:

- ▶ Visit www.texassuccess.org to enroll.
- ▶ Click on the **Sign Up** link under the Math heading at the top of the page.
- ▶ Select the parent option and enter the requested information.
- ▶ You will receive an e-mail explaining the steps for activating your account. Be sure to check your junk mail if our e-mail does not appear in your inbox.

Once you finalize and log in to your Think Through Math parent account, you will be asked to add your student’s username and password.

Your student should have received the log-in information from his/her classroom teacher.

If your student does not have or does not remember the username and password, please send an e-mail to support@thinkthroughmath.com with the following information:

- ▶ Student’s full name
- ▶ Name of student’s school district and school
- ▶ Name of teacher who provided the TTM account to your student

As soon as this e-mail is received and the information is confirmed, a reply will be sent with the requested information.

If your student never had a TTM username and password, but did attend a public school in grades 3–8 during the 2012–2013 school year, you have the option to create a new account. Select the “Register a new student” and fill in the required information.

ADD A STUDENT


I have my student's username and password Register a new student

Username

Password

I am authorized to view this student's information.

ADD

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BEST PRACTICES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS USING TTM

It is critical that you encourage your students participating in TTM to use the program as intended. Here are some key things you can do to help ensure that your child gets the most out of using TTM.

1. Check Your Computer

Think Through Math requires that students access the program through the Internet, using a desktop or laptop computer. To benefit from all of the program's features, students must use the correct Web browser to access TTM. These are approved browsers:

- ▶ **INTERNET EXPLORER 8.0 OR HIGHER**
- ▶ **FIREFOX** – available for free download at www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/
- ▶ **CHROME** – available for free download at www.google.com/chrome

In addition to the correct browser, check that you have the latest version of Adobe Flash installed. For many of you, this will already be done. **If you are not sure about your version of Flash**, go to <http://get2.adobe.com/flashplayer/> to install the latest version.

2. Encourage Students to Set Goals

Setting clear goals is important for student success. Here are some student goals we recommend:

- ▶ To work on TTM for 30–45 minutes, two or three days a week, and . . .
- ▶ To complete at least 2–3 lessons a week, and . . .
- ▶ To work to pass at least 70% of the lessons on the pathway by the end of the summer.

3. Encourage Students to Use Headphones and a Notebook

- ▶ **HEADPHONES:** There are many areas of the program in which the problem, answers, and feedback can be read to the student. Hearing these aloud may help students better understand what they are working on. When students are receiving Live Help, our teachers can either type or talk to them (some of our teachers are bilingual). In many cases, Spanish translations of the problem can be read to the student.
- ▶ **NOTEBOOK:** Using a notebook allows students to draw diagrams, think through solutions, or work out computations—some of the many ways that can help them solve the problems in TTM.



4. Encourage Students to Use the Help Features

The feedback, Learning Coach Help, and Live Help features are there to further support students in their understanding of math concepts. Here are some key suggestions to help ensure that your student makes the most of these Help features:

- ▶ Encourage students to read the on-screen feedback and help provided.
- ▶ Encourage students who get stuck to ask for “More Help” or to click the Learning Coach image when present at the bottom right of the page.
- ▶ Encourage students to first make an attempt to answer the question, and then take advantage of the Live Help. *NOTE: Live Help is only available once students make an attempt to answer the question.*

Sorry, but this equation DOES represent this situation.

3:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. = 1.5 hours 4:30 p.m.

Mile marker 50 155 miles – 50 miles = 105 miles Mile marker 155

$\frac{\text{Distance}}{\text{Rate}} = \frac{\text{Rate} \times \text{Time}}{\text{Rate}}$ Dividing both sides of the distance formula by time gives this formula: Then substitute.

$\text{Rate} = \frac{\text{Distance}}{\text{Time}}$ $\text{speed} = \frac{105 \text{ miles}}{1.5 \text{ hours}}$

Try again. Look for an equation that does NOT represent this situation.

REPLAY TRY AGAIN MATH HELP

5. Let the Program Help Your Student

As tempting as it is to jump in and provide answers and too much information to help your students as they work through the problems in TTM, you are reminded that TTM is continually assessing what your student does or does not understand, and adapts the content we provide accordingly. Any outside assistance makes it more difficult for the program to accurately measure student progress.

In addition to the just-in-time instruction and the immediate corrective feedback, students have access to live help from our Think Through Math teachers—all math experts, all U.S. certified, and all focused on making sure students understand the concepts and can demonstrate proficiency. TTM teachers work either in the corporate office in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, or work remotely from their homes in Texas or in other U.S. states. Whenever possible, students noted in the system as Spanish-speakers are given access to Spanish-speaking teachers. Live help is available to students on the Think Through Math system between 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. CST, Monday–Friday throughout the summer.

The best thing parents can do is to support your students and encourage them to use the program in line with the best practices outlined in this toolkit.

PARENT ACCOUNT – THINK THROUGH MATH REPORTS FOR PARENTS

To track your student's progress in TTM, your parent account allows you to access the Overview and the Individualized Pathway reports.

- ▶ **OVERVIEW REPORT:** This report shows a summary of the work your student has done on TTM.

STUDENTS

ADD STUDENTS

THINK Student

Username: tstudent0756 | Password: tstudent17715

Individualized Pathway
Overview Report

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- Encourage your student to meet the goals of working on TTM 60–90 minutes a week and completing 2–3 lessons a week.

83 TOTAL LESSONS COMPLETED

Problems Attempted	School Year Points	Lessons Passed by Pre-Quiz	Time on System	Evenings and Weekends	Average Pre-Quiz Score	Average Post-Quiz Score
1802	38587	20	29:19	20:43	44%	56%

- ▶ Individualized Pathway Report: This report shows the lessons that your student has taken, as well as his or her upcoming lessons. Upcoming lessons may change depending on how the student performs. In addition, this report can explain why certain lessons were assigned, and how the student performed on each lesson.
 - Use this report to see how your student is performing on each individual lesson.
 - Encourage your student to stick with the program. We expect students to fail some lessons. This is acceptable and part of the learning process. The main goal is that students eventually pass their Target (grade level) Lessons.
 - Set a goal for your student to pass at least 70% of his or her Target Lessons.

Lesson	Reason	Tested Out	Passed	Post-Quiz Score	Certificate
Ratios	Placement Test	✗	✗	40%	
Equivalent Fractions I	Remediate	✓	✓		Print Certificate
Ratios	Retake	✗	✓	60%	Print Certificate
Multiply and Divide Decimals	Placement Test	✗	✗	38%	
Relationship Between Multiplication and Division	Remediate	✗	✗	40%	
Concept of Division	Remediate	✓	✓		Print Certificate
Relationship Between Multiplication and Division	Retake	✓	✓		Print Certificate
Multiply and Divide Whole Numbers	Remediate	✓	✓		Print Certificate
Decimals to Thousandths	Remediate	✗	✓	75%	Print Certificate
Multiply and Divide Decimals	Retake	✗	✓	100%	Print Certificate
Find Unit Rates	Target	✗	✓	100%	Print Certificate
Use Proportions to Solve Problems	Target	✗	✓	88%	Print Certificate



HOW TO GET HELP AND SUPPORT

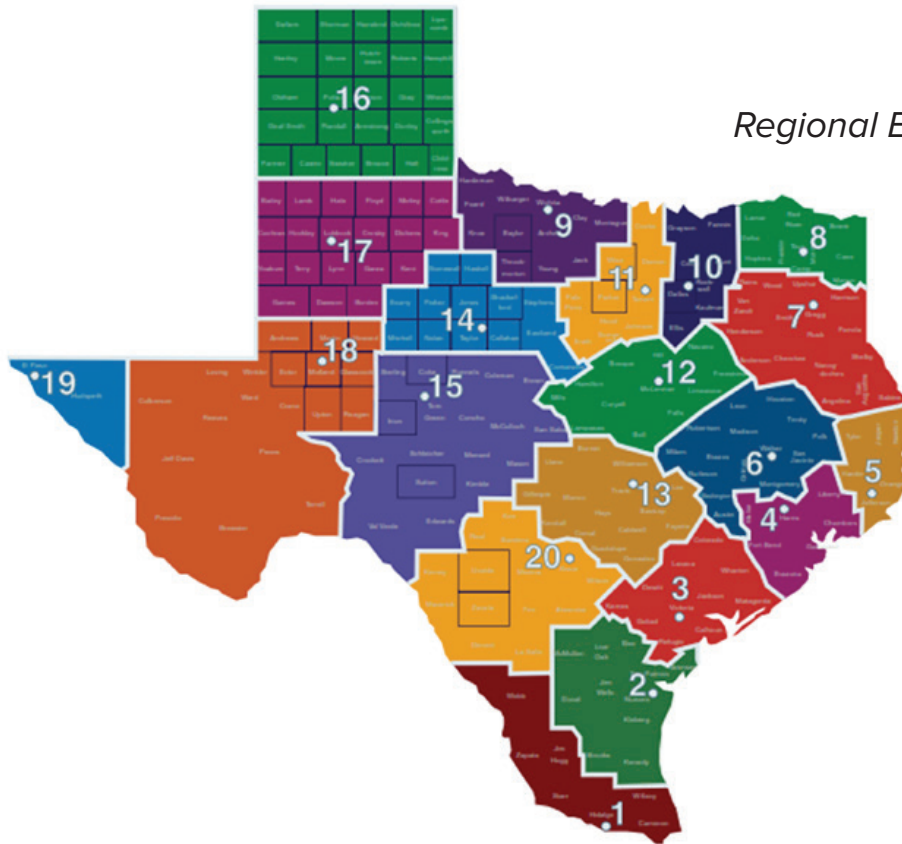
If you encounter any technical issues, you can get help from a Think Through Math Instructional Coach covering the Educational Service Center region where your child’s school resides. A list of Instructional Coaches, their e-mail addresses, and the regions they cover is provided below.

INSTRUCTIONAL COACH	REGIONS	INSTRUCTIONAL COACH	REGIONS
Susan Cooper scooper@thinkthroughmath.com	6, 12, 13, 15	Melissa Lorenzo mlorenzo@thinkthroughmath.com	2, 3
Mary Davis mdavis@thinkthroughmath.com	8, 9, 10	Israel Pena ipena@thinkthroughmath.com	1, 18, 19
Jessica Davis jdavis@thinkthroughmath.com	11, 14, 16, 17	Jayne Shanklin jshanklin@thinkthroughmath.com	Online Support and Region 20
Lonzetta Dunson ldunson@thinkthroughmath.com	7, 10, 12	Karen Tillett ktillett@thinkthroughmath.com	4, 5

If you do not know in which region your student’s school district resides, you can find out by going to this site: <http://mansfield.tea.state.tx.us/TEA.AskTED.Web/Forms/QuickSearch.aspx>. Enter the district name in the space provided and click the Search button to see the list of results—including the region—for your student’s district.



In addition, you can reference this map to determine in which region you reside.



Regional Education Service Centers

1. Ediburg
2. Corpus Christi
3. Victoria
4. Houston
5. Beaumont
6. Huntsville
7. Kilgore
8. Mt. Pleasant
9. Wichita Falls
10. Richardson
11. Fort Worth
12. Waco
13. Austin
14. Abilene
15. San Angelo
16. Amarillo
17. Lubbock
18. Midland
19. El Paso
20. San Antonio

For questions about Texas SUCCESS, please visit www.texassuccess.org, e-mail help@texassuccess.org, or call toll-free 877-315-4918. To learn more about Texas Success and Think Through Math teaming up together, visit www.texassuccess.org or www.tmtexas.com.