

TEXAS SUMMER SUCCESS TOOLKIT FOR EDUCATORS

Using Think Through Math at Home Over the Summer

An extended learning program supporting students in grades 3 through 8, a yearlong supplemental math solution, and an intensive summer school program, Think Through Math is indeed effective with students of varying abilities. Through the state-funded Texas SUCCESS project, students will continue to have access all summer long to TTM's adaptive content and Live Help from certified math teachers. Students can access TTM at home, at community centers, or at local libraries—anywhere they can access the Internet.

Because the system is adaptive, TTM provides content based on students' own abilities, and works to accelerate them to grade level. Just by completing 2–3 lessons a week during the summer, students can avoid the “summer slide” and make meaningful gains.

Student Accounts

If students do not yet have TTM accounts created, teachers and school administrators can create those student accounts via their TTM Teacher or TTM Administrator account. Simply log in to TTM, click the **Import Students** link along the left-hand side of the page, and follow the prompts. Additionally, you can reference the Handy How-To titled “How to Access the Online Help Guide in Think Through Math,” available on the Texas SUCCESS Web site at <http://texassuccess.org> > Support > Handy How To.

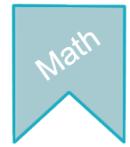
Pathways

Teachers can help their students get the most out of TTM this summer by checking each student's TTM Individual Student Pathway Report as well as test results. With this information, teachers can assign students an appropriate TTM pathway of content for the summer. TTM has Texas-specific pathways for each grade level and has also designed shorter domain-specific pathways that teachers may find useful for targeting specific areas in which they know their students struggle.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Over the summer, TTM will automatically assign a new pathway to students once they finish the lessons in their current pathway. In this way, students will continue to be provided with math that fits their needs all summer long.

Motivation

Teachers can help their students by making them aware of the *TTM Texas Math – Everybody's Doing It!* summer contest this summer. 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.



Support for Parents – Getting the Word Out

Before students leave for the summer, school administrators and teachers are strongly encouraged to send home the parent letter included in this educator toolkit. This letter provides parents with their student’s log-in and password, information about setting up a TTM parent account, and guidance on how to access the Texas Summer SUCCESS Toolkit for Parents.

A Texas Summer SUCCESS Toolkit for Parents has been created to provide information and resources that will help parents support students using TTM over the summer. The Texas Summer SUCCESS Toolkit for Parents can be accessed by going to <http://texassuccess.org>.

Communication

Below are a few messages you can use via e-mail, newsletters, blogs, or social media to communicate the availability of TTM this summer.

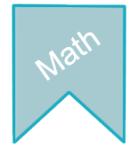
POSSIBLE TWEETS TO PROMOTE USAGE OF TEXAS SUCCESS OVER THE SUMMER (DISTRICTS/CAMPUSES MAY ADAPT AS NEEDED)

TEXAS SUCCESS OVERALL

1. Did you know **#TexasSUCCESS** offers state-funded math and reading online resources for ALL Texas public school students in grades 3-8!?
2. Visit texassuccess.org this summer for online math and reading resources for all **#Texas** public school students grades 3-8! At no cost!
3. texassuccess.org can help your student avoid **#summerslide**! Log in for free access to online math and reading resources!
4. Persistence and sustained effort are indicators of math & reading success. Log in to encourage this throughout the summer! texassuccess.org

THINK THROUGH MATH

1. To improve your student’s **#mathskills** this summer be sure to access TTM through texassuccess.org!
2. Keep your student’s **#mathskills** sharp! Visit texassuccess.org for tips to help your student with TTM this summer.
3. Avoid **#summerlearningloss** by working on TTM this summer! All it takes is 1-2 hours/week to make sure you keep your math skills sharp
4. Tip to support your student with TTM this summer: work on TTM at least 2 hours/week! texassuccess.org
5. Tip to support your student with TTM this summer: use headphones for audio support with live tutors. texassuccess.org
6. Tip to support your student with TTM this summer: use a notebook for showing work, and taking notes! texassuccess.org
7. Tip to support students with TTM this summer: Don’t help! Struggling a bit with a concept is a good thing It pushes them to be their best
8. Encourage your student to do their best on TTM this summer. Persistence and effort are great predictors of success. texassuccess.org



9. TTM will be running a summer long contest! Your students can be Summer Champs? More details at texassuccess.org
10. Your student can access TTM anywhere there's internet access. Have them log on to keep math skills in tune! texassuccess.org
11. TTM adapts to your student's needs. Be their cheerleader and have them log in this summer for a leg up this fall! texassuccess.org

EMAIL TO PROMOTE USAGE OF TEXAS SUCCESS OVER THE SUMMER (DISTRICTS/CAMPUSES MAY ADAPT AS NEEDED)

Helping students keep their math and reading skills sharp this summer is easy with Think Through Math and Istation, the math and reading providers for a state-funded project called Texas Success. Think Through Math personalizes student learning with unprecedented levels of differentiation, explicit instruction, meaningful practice, fun and engaging motivational tools, and access to live certified teachers (including Spanish-speaking teachers). Istation also personalizes student learning with reading instruction and practice presented by engaging characters and meaningful activities.

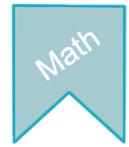
To help support our students, a Texas Summer SUCCESS Toolkit for Parents has been created that provides information and resources to help support students using Think Through Math and Istation over the summer. To learn more about Texas SUCCESS and to access the Texas Summer SUCCESS Parent Toolkit, please visit <http://texassuccess.org>.

Support for Community Groups

In addition to the parent toolkit, a community toolkit has been created to provide information and resources that will help support students using TTM over the summer. The Texas Summer SUCCESS Toolkit for Community Centers and Libraries can be accessed by going to <http://texassuccess.org>.

Training

Webinar trainings are available to help support students' at-home summer usage. Registration information and the full schedule of webinars is available by clicking the Support tab, once a teacher or an administrator has logged in to a TTM account, or by going to <http://www.thinkthroughmath.com/think-through-math-resources/upcoming-webinars/>.



How to Get Help and Technical 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 district 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 Tillet ktillet@thinkthroughmath.com	4, 5

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.

USING THINK THROUGH MATH WITH SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

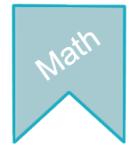
As a Web-based supplemental curriculum, Think Through Math provides a powerful solution to support summer school instruction. Although any program is more effective when an engaged classroom teacher oversees implementation, TTM is designed so that students can work independently on the computer.

Students work on individualized lesson pathways, with automatic access to immediate feedback and support from live, certified teachers.

Educators and other supervisors of a TTM summer school program can have access to student performance data that shows individual student progress.

As a part of a summer school program, TTM can be used in various ways:

- ▶ Supplemental support to classroom instruction
 - Blended learning
 - Computer lab
 - Extended day
- ▶ Intensive use
 - Test preparation
 - Part of a credit recovery program



HOW THINK THROUGH MATH WORKS

(If you are familiar with how the program works, please skip to the section titled “Setting Up a Summer School Program in TTM.”)

Motivation

- ▶ Think Through Math starts out by establishing an environment in which students want to do more math. We accomplish this through our 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, we are not only rewarding students for doing more math, but we are also encouraging them 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. These contests allow individual students or class, school, or district teams to show off their math skills as they compete for some great awards. For more information on our current contests and our motivation program, in general, go to www.tmtexas.com/texasmath and download the Motivation Overview and the Texas Math summer contest flyer.

Adaptive Content

Think Through Math will provide a series of lessons designed to help each 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 those activities and their general properties:

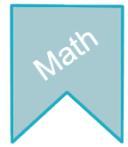
PLACEMENT TEST: When students first start using TTM, they take a Placement Test that assesses at what grade level they are able to consistently answer questions correctly. On that basis, TTM may automatically assign additional lessons to help students better understand the mathematics at their grade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

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.

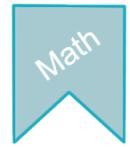
Build a word equation that represents how they might solve the problem.

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.



SETTING UP A SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM IN TTM

Schools will need to make determinations about how to organize students in a summer school program that includes TTM. Many summer school students will already have TTM accounts that were organized under a different teacher's classroom during the regular school year. In addition, choices must be made regarding the level to which a summer school teacher will be able to access student data and assign content. Below are two options, with some of the related pros and cons for each.

OPTION 1: STUDENTS REMAIN IN THEIR ORIGINAL TTM SCHOOL-YEAR CLASS AND UNDER THEIR ORIGINAL SCHOOL-YEAR TTM TEACHER'S ACCOUNT

Pros:

- ▶ **TTM WILL ASSIGN CONTENT STUDENTS NEED:** Students will continue to work on content that is appropriate for their specific needs and that drives them toward grade-level proficiency.
- ▶ **EASY TO MANAGE:** Teachers will not have to do anything, as students can continue using TTM, as usual, either as a part of their class or as an at-home resource.
- ▶ **TIME:** Given the short duration, teachers can immediately implement TTM into their summer school program.

Cons:

- ▶ **ASSIGNING PATHWAYS:** Without access to student accounts from their own teacher account, summer school teachers will be unable to control the content students are working on.
- ▶ **ACCESSING DATA:** Without having the students in their own teacher account, summer school teachers will be unable to access student data.

OPTION 2: MOVE STUDENTS INTO A CLASS UNDER THE SUMMER SCHOOL TEACHER'S ACCOUNT

- ▶ **TIME:** Summer school teachers will need to submit a list of their students and their TTM usernames to support@thinkthroughmath.com to move student accounts from the original teacher's account into their summer school class account. While students can continue to use their TTM accounts during this process, it may take up to 2 business days for this change to be implemented.

TRAINING FOR SUMMER SCHOOL TEACHERS

It is highly recommended that summer school teachers attend one of the TTM summer school training webinars. Registration information and the full schedule of webinars is available by clicking the **Support** tab, once a teacher or an administrator has logged in to a TTM account, or by going to <http://www.thinkthroughmath.com/think-through-math-resources/upcoming-webinars/>.

BEST PRACTICES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS USING TTM

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

1. Check Your Technology

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 our program in which we can read the problem, answers, and feedback 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. In many cases, Spanish translations of the problem can be read to the student.
- ▶ **JOURNAL:** Using a journal allows students to draw diagrams, think through solutions, or work out computations—some of the many devices that can help them solve the problems in TTM. An example of a journal is available under the TTM Knowledge Base. Click the **Support** tab, once you have logged in to a teacher or an administrator TTM account.



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.

Mile marker 50

4:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. = 1.5 hours

155 miles – 50 miles = 105 miles

4:30 p.m.

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:

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{\text{Distance}}{\text{Time}}$$

Then substitute.

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

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

REPLAY

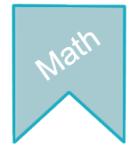
TRY AGAIN

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.

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.



HOW TO GET HELP AND TECHNICAL 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 district 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 Tillet ktillet@thinkthroughmath.com	4, 5

Additionally, online webinars are available to help with all of your summer school needs. Registration information and the full schedule of webinars is available by clicking the Support tab, once you have logged in to a teacher or an administrator TTM account, or by going to <http://www.thinkthroughmath.com/think-through-math-resources/upcoming-webinars/>.

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.