



THINK THROUGH MATH TEXAS SUMMER SUCCESS TOOLKIT FOR COMMUNITY CENTERS AND LIBRARIES

Texas SUCCESS provides state-funded access to interactive math and reading programs for Texas students in grades 3–8. This means *free access* is provided to both math and reading programs through Texas SUCCESS. 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 months.¹ 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

Think Through Math provides a series of lessons designed to help students better understand the content that is critical for success in math at their 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 from certified math teachers. Other lessons ask students to be more independent. Sections of the program include a Placement Test, Pre-Quiz, Warm Up, Focus, Guided Learning, Practice, and Post-Quiz.

ASSISTANCE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

A Texas Summer SUCCESS Toolkit for Parents has been created to provide information and resources parents can use to help support their students using TTM over the summer. This toolkit will also guide parents through the parent account creation process. The Texas Summer SUCCESS Toolkit for Parents can be accessed by going to <http://texassuccess.org>.

TECHNOLOGY CHECK

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.

The detailed TTM technical requirements document is available here: http://lms.thinkthroughmath.com/static_pages/tech_check.

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.*

SUPPORTING STUDENTS USING TTM

Think Through Math Support System

Think Through Math has built-in support for students, including feedback for correct and incorrect answers, instructional support from a Learning Coach, and access to Live Help from TTM’s staff of certified math teachers.

Each lesson in TTM comprises multiple activities. Students are automatically provided the activity that is appropriate for the lesson on which they are working. For some of these activities, such as the Pre-Quiz and Post-Quiz, TTM is trying to assess a student’s understanding of the concept. Therefore, feedback or Learning Coach/Live Help support is not provided in those activities. In other activities, such as Guided Learning and Problem Solving Process (PSP), the program is focusing on instruction and building understanding. In the Guided Learning and the PSP activities, students are provided with as much support as possible, including access to Live Teacher Help.

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.



Help Students with the Math

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

The best thing you can do to support students is to provide an environment for them to access TTM, and encourage them to use the program in line with the best practices outlined in this toolkit.



Log In to Think Through Math

To log in to Think Through Math, students can follow these instructions:

- ▶ Go to www.texassuccess.org.
- ▶ Click the **Login** link below the Math heading at the top of the page.
- ▶ Enter their username and password.
- ▶ Click the **Login** button.

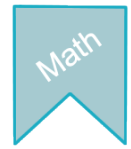
Students who may have forgotten their username or password can recover that information by sending an e-mail to support@thinkthroughmath.com with the following information:

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

Think Through Math Student Motivation Program

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, TTM not only rewards students for doing more math, but it also encourages 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. 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.



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 the student’s school 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

If you do not know in which region a 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 the student’s school district.

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.