

# THINK THROUGH MATH TEXAS SUCCESS TOOLKIT FOR PARENTS

Texas SUCCESS provides state-funded access to interactive math and reading programs for Texas public school 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](http://www.texassuccess.org).

## 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.



TTM recognizes top districts and students all year with awesome prizes such as t-shirts, an awards luncheon, gift cards and more! Information on TTM contests can be found by going to [www.tmtexas.com/texasmath](http://www.tmtexas.com/texasmath).

### Adaptive Content



A TTM lesson consists of several activities, each one designed for a specific purpose. Instructional support is provided as appropriate in the form of answer feedback, Math Help, and Live Teacher Help.

Answer feedback is targeted specifically to the student’s incorrect and/or correct answer choice to help students overcome common misconceptions. Students can also ask for Math Help to receive feedback and instruction on math concepts. The Live Teacher Help feature connects the student to a live, state-certified math teacher who will text-chat and/or talk with the student through the computer speakers to help him or her understand the math concepts on which they are working.



Below is a list of the activities within a TTM lesson 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.

**1. PRE-QUIZ:** This activity is designed to assess student understanding of the content. TTM does not provide feedback, Math 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.

**2. WARM UP:** This activity has students work through problems or an interactive game covering concepts they should already understand to prepare them for the material that they are going to be learning.

**3. 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 Math Help image to ask for more math help. If students get really stuck, they can even get Live Teacher Help from certified math teachers. In order to get the most out of the program, it is important that students read the on-screen feedback and use the help that is provided.

**4. 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 Math Help, as well as Live Teacher Help from certified math teachers. *NOTE: Not every lesson has the PSP activity.*

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

- ▶ *Analyzing* given information
- ▶ *Formulating* a plan or strategy
- ▶ *Plan* a solution
- ▶ *Justifying* the solution
- ▶ *Evaluating* the problem-solving process and the reasonableness of the solution

**5. 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 Math Help or the Live Teacher Help.

**6. POST QUIZ:** Like the Pre-Quiz, this activity is designed to assess student understanding of the content. TTM does not provide feedback, Math Help, or Live Teacher Help in this activity. Students who earn at least a 70% will move on to the next lesson in their prescribed pathway. Students earning less than 70% will automatically be assigned additional remediation lessons (when available) designed to help improve their understanding of this concept before attempting this lesson again at a later time.



## 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 9.0 OR HIGHER**
- ▶ **FIREFOX 27.X OR HIGHER** – available for free download at [www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/](http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/)
- ▶ **CHROME 31.X OR HIGHER** – available for free download at [www.google.com/chrome](http://www.google.com/chrome)
- ▶ **SAFARI 6.X OR HIGHER** – available for free download at [support.apple.com/downloads/#safari](http://support.apple.com/downloads/#safari)

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.

### Tablets/Mobile Devices

TTM supports 7" devices (e.g. Kindle Fire) in landscape configuration and 10" or larger devices (e.g. iPad) in both landscape and portrait configurations. The application is delivered through the browser without requiring a separate app download.

\*Please Note: Some non-critical features of TTM use Adobe Flash, which is not supported by Apple iOS devices

## 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
- ▶ To complete at least 2–3 lessons a week
- ▶ To work to pass at least 70% of the lessons on the pathway by the end of the school year
- ▶ To set up a small reward program to help establish these goals and successes
  - For example: family pizza night, game night, movie tickets, etc., if your student achieves a set of goals

## 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 in English or Spanish (when enabled by the teacher). Hearing these aloud may help students better understand what they are working on. Additionally, students receiving Live Teacher Help can hear our teachers talk through the computer. 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. These are some of the many strategies students can use to solve problems in TTM. For more strategies and examples of using a math notebook, check out *Using the TTM Math Journal at Home*, available at [www.texassuccess.org/support/parent-corner](http://www.texassuccess.org/support/parent-corner)



#### 4. Encourage Students to Use the Help Features

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 feedback, Math Help, and Live Teacher 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 click on the Math Help button when available in the Guided Learning or Problem Solving activities.
- ▶ Encourage students to first make an attempt to answer the question, and then take advantage of the Live Teacher Help

*NOTE: Live Teacher Help is only available once students make an attempt to answer the question*

In addition to the just-in-time instruction and the immediate corrective feedback, students have access to Live Teacher 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 Teacher 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 school year.

The best thing parents can do to support students is to encourage use of TTM in line with the best practices outlined in this toolkit.

The screenshot shows a window titled "TTM TEACHER" with a "HELP" button. The main text reads: "There are different ways to describe the position of a point on a line segment." Below this, a diagram shows a line segment with endpoints A and B, and a point C in between. The segment AC is green and CB is red. To the left, under "As a ratio:", it shows  $AC:CB = 1:2$  and  $CB:AC = 2:1$  (part:part). To the right, under "As a fraction:", it shows  $\frac{AC}{AB} = \frac{1}{3}$  and  $\frac{CB}{AB} = \frac{2}{3}$  (part/whole). Below the text are two more diagrams of the line segment with AC highlighted in green and CB in red.



## 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](http://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 their username and password, please send an e-mail to [support@thinkthroughmath.com](mailto: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 does attend a public school in grades 3–8, you have the option to create a new account. Select the “Register a new student” and fill in the required information.

## PARENT ACCOUNT – TTM 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 and provides




**Iron Man**  
Username: iman3633 | Password: iman53922

[Overview Report](#)
[Lesson Activity](#)
[Remove Student](#)

information to support your child's efforts and time spent in the program. Use the overview report to monitor progress and:

- Encourage students to meet the goal of working on TTM for 30 - 45 minutes, two to three days a week
  - Encourage students to complete 2-3 lessons a week
  - Encourage students to work to pass at least 70% of the lessons they complete
- ▶ **INDIVIDUALIZED PATHWAY REPORT:** This report shows the lessons that your student has taken, as well as his


Welcome Texas Parent | Sign out

[Home](#)
[Contests](#)
[Support](#)

### Iron Man

22 Total Lessons Attempted VIEW PATHWAY

Problems Attempted	School Year Points	Lessons Passed by Pre-Quiz	Math Time (HH:MM)	Evening/Weekend Time	Average Pre-Quiz Score	Average Post-Quiz Score
455	12441	8	04:29	00:51	46%	87%

or her lesson progress. Lesson Progress 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 grade level lessons.
- Set a goal for your student to pass at least 70% of his or her grade level lessons.

Lesson Activity		All Grade Levels				Print
Lesson Title	Grade Level	Score (* Tested Out)	Time on Lesson (HH:MM)	Date Completed		
Multiplying by Powers of Ten	6	86% ✓ *	00:08	08/27/2014 02:21 PM		
Multiplying and Dividing by Powers of Ten	6	100% ✓	00:19	08/27/2014 02:41 PM		
Dividing Whole Numbers - Standard Algorithm	6	88% ✓ *	00:10	08/27/2014 02:59 PM		
Relating Factors and Multiples II	6	86% ✓	00:12	08/27/2014 03:12 PM		
Greatest Common Factor	6	100% ✓	00:18	08/27/2014 09:06 PM		
Greatest Common Factor - Applications	6	80% ✓ *	00:02	08/28/2014 01:14 PM		
Least Common Multiple	6	50% ✗	00:16	08/29/2014 10:10 AM		
Least Common Multiple	6	86% ✓ *	00:01	09/02/2014 09:53 AM		
Adding and Subtracting Mixed Numbers with Like Denominators	6	86% ✓	00:12	09/02/2014 10:41 AM		
Word Problems with Fractions and Mixed Numbers - Visual Models	6	100% ✓	00:16	09/03/2014 10:02 AM		
Adding and Subtracting Fractions	6	100% ✓	00:21	09/03/2014 10:47 AM		
Understanding Fractions as Division	6	89% ✓ *	00:02	09/03/2014 09:49 PM		
Multiplying Unit Fractions by Whole Numbers	6	100% ✓ *	00:01	09/03/2014 09:51 PM		
Multiplying Fractions by Whole Numbers	6	100% ✓	00:10	09/09/2014 05:46 PM		
Solving Word Problems with Multiplication of Fractions by Whole Numbers	6	100% ✓ *	00:03	09/09/2014 05:49 PM		
Using the Relationship Between Multiplication and Division to Divide Fractions	6	100% ✓	00:24	09/11/2014 10:19 AM		
Dividing Unit Fractions by Whole Numbers	6	80% ✓	00:20	09/11/2014 10:40 AM		





## MOTIVATION

TTM believes that motivation is a key part of helping students do more math. For that reason, we are continually running contests and other motivational programs for the students in Texas. Clicking on the Contests tab will let you see information about all of the current and upcoming contests and motivation programs in which your child can participate.

Contests

Student Login

Welcome Texas Parent | Sign out

Home Contests Support

### The 3rd Annual Red River Rumble Kicks Off Today!

Oct 2014 to Oct 2014

Hey Texas students, are you up for a challenge? **October 13, the State of Texas will be taking on the State of Oklahoma in the 3rd Annual Think Through Math Red River Rumble!**

Every week in November, five elite schools from Texas will battle five elite schools from Oklahoma to see which state reigns supreme and can be named the 2014 Red River Rumble Winner!

[More Info](#)

### Red River Rumble Texas Schools Selected to Compete November 3!

Oct 2014 to Oct 2014

Hey Texas THINK students, you've been hard at work passing your math lessons and we are ready to announce the first round of qualifying schools that will lead us in the challenge against Oklahoma starting on November 3.

[More Info](#)

## HOW TO GET HELP AND SUPPORT

Clicking the **Support** navigation item will lead the user to the support page:

- ▶ Learn the technical requirements of the program
- ▶ Review the approved browser settings: **Internet Explorer 9.0 or higher, Firefox 27.X or higher, Chrome 31.X or higher, and Safari 6.X or higher**
- ▶ Get Help and Additional Support by contacting [support@thinkthroughmath.com](mailto:support@thinkthroughmath.com) or [help@texassuccess.org](mailto:help@texassuccess.org)
- ▶ Review tablet optimization recommendations: TTM supports 7" devices (e.g. Kindle Fire) in landscape configuration and 10" or larger devices (e.g. iPad) in both landscape and portrait configurations. Adobe Flash is not supported on Apple iOS devices.

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### Technical Issues

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 9.0 or higher
- Firefox - available for free download at [www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/](http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/)
- Chrome - available for free download at [www.google.com/chrome](http://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.

If you continue to have technical issues, TTM's Customer Support Team is available Mondays through Fridays from 7:30am to 5:30pm (EST). You can contact them by phone at 1.866.357.8664 option 3 or email at [support@thinkthroughmath.com](mailto:support@thinkthroughmath.com)