

Program Overview

Introduction

This guide explores the digits® Texas middle school math program. It also explores MATHdashboard—the online teacher’s portal where you can log in to your SuccessNet Plus account and view up-to-date information about digits®. It investigates the Unit Structure and how it supports intervention and English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS) instruction. It also reviews how the program features support rigorous Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) coverage as students build their conceptual understanding of mathematics and develop their problem-solving skills.

Before you begin, make sure you have registered for a SuccessNet Plus teacher account.

SuccessNet Plus

To register, if you have not done so already, you will need a school code provided by your school or district.

Go to www.MATHDashboard.com/digitsTexas, and click the Sign Up button in the bottom, left-hand corner of the screen. This will take you to the Create an Account page on SuccessNet Plus.



Follow the on-screen instructions to set up your account, add your digits® Texas course, create and manage your classes, and set up your calendar.

If you are not familiar with the SuccessNet Plus platform, watch the Getting Started with SuccessNet Plus tutorials.

Technology Implementation

After you have set up your digits® Texas class, you will have full access to flexible implementation options to deliver the course content. digits® Texas will help you leverage your existing classroom technology, whether you have a projector, an interactive whiteboard, or devices that support one-to-one computing.

You can access and present lessons to your students online or you can present lessons using the Teacher Resources DVD included in your Teacher Package. All you need is a computer and a projector to start using digits® in your classroom.

So, what does a digits® Texas lesson look like in the classroom?

Unit Structure digits® Texas lessons are interactive and flexible, so that you can incorporate your own personal style and best practices.

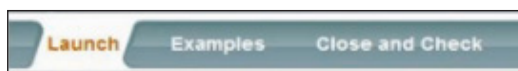
Each digits® Texas grade-level course consists of six units that are subdivided into topics. Each topic includes a Topic Project, Prerequisites Lessons, approximately five to eight on-level lessons, a Topic Review, and a Topic Assessment. The TEKS mathematical process standards are developed throughout every lesson.

A seventh unit contains Step-Up Lessons. Use these lessons after the yearly state test to help prepare students for their next course.

ELPS instruction is provided throughout the program. Most lessons address one or more ELPS. In the Teacher Guides, find leveled suggestions for students at Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, and Advanced/High levels of English proficiency.

Use the Personalized Study Plan generated from the Prerequisites Assessment data to differentiate instruction and to customize learning for your students. This data-driven approach assures that all students are prepared to master the on-level lessons. To learn more, watch The Unit Structure tutorial.

On-Level Lessons Take a look at an on-level lesson. The lesson has three parts: Launch, Examples, and Close and Check.



Simple navigation allows you to easily move between these three parts, find a specific example, or find a specific screen.



Launch Each lesson begins with a Launch problem where students engage with mathematical content at the start of class.

The Launch uses Problem-Based-Interactive Learning that enables them to build on prior knowledge and construct new knowledge.

Hosts After students complete the Launch problem, a student host asks them a Focus Question. These hosts are real, young, successful students that middle grade students look up to. This allows young learners to engage with the math on a new, relatable level.

The hosts guide students through the lesson by providing context and reasons why learning the concept is important. They do this sincerely and authentically in their own words.

Examples

Next, the Examples section provides direct, explicit instruction of the lesson's concept. The examples build to ensure students' understanding. Animations and visual learning draw students' attention to the important details of the concept.

Every example concludes with a Got It? question to check for understanding. You can use students' performance on the Got It? question to make immediate instructional decisions, such as modifying the pace or reviewing a concept to prevent the development of deeper misconceptions.

Got It?
You will deposit \$1. Which bank should you choose if you are going to withdraw your money in 7 years?

$T = 1 + 200y$
We'll pay you \$200 every year!
Bank of Lotsabucks

$T = 3^y$
We'll triple your money every year!
Wahoo Savings and Loan

Show Answer

Close and Check

Close and Check brings students back to the Focus Question, which they can answer in the write-in Student Companion.

Additionally, students complete Do You Know How? practice problems and Do You Understand? questions that require higher-order thinking.

Do you know HOW?
1. Use the table to relate the independent variable x to the dependent variable y . Write an equation that shows the relationship.

Do you UNDERSTAND?
3. Reasoning Is it easier to write an equation based on a graph or a table? Explain.

Homework and Assessments

After the classroom lesson, students have the opportunity to work individually on homework assignments.

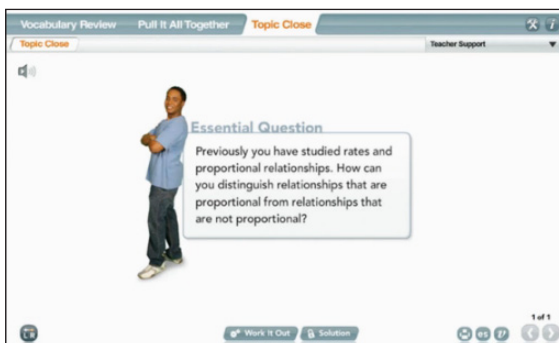
Homework and assessments are powered by MathXL® for School. These can be administered online, with paper and pencil, or from the Homework Helper.

Students also use MathXL® for School to complete the Topic Assessments at the end of each topic. digits® Texas provides curriculum resources for students to practice and apply what they have learned before they take the Topic Assessment.

Topic Review

In the Topic Review, students work on Pull It All Together, a rich performance task that provides an authentic problem-solving experience.

At the end of each topic, students revisit the Essential Question for the topic. This activity is a summary point—students answer the larger questions of when, how, and why to use the skills and concepts that they have learned in the topic.

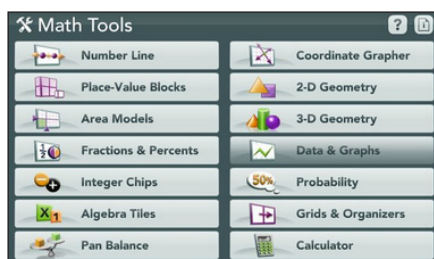


digits® Support Features

There are other instructional support features that you will find in digits® Texas.

Math Tools

To see a list of available tools in digits® Texas, click the Math Tools icon. A new window will open with a list of the Math Tools. Math Tools are virtual manipulatives that enable users to interact with, develop, and model math concepts in real time.



Get Info

Click the Get Info button to tell you what skills and standards each lesson covers. digits® Texas was built around the TEKS and incorporates the mathematical process standards into its overall instructional design.

Teaching Support

Click the Teaching Support button to open the Teaching Support panel. Here you will find point-of-use lesson support, such as the TEKS, ELPS, and guiding questions that elicit thinking. This resource provides everything that you need to know or access to teach the lesson.

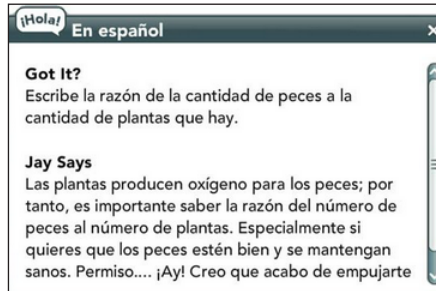
Vocabulary and Key Concepts

Click the Vocabulary and Key Concepts button to open a new window with the vocabulary and key concepts of the specific lesson that you are teaching pre-sorted in a list.

Spanish translation and search options are built into the window.

Spanish Translation

Click the Spanish Translation button for a Spanish translation of the text on screen and accompanying narration.



MyMathUniverse® Direct students to their own digits® Texas Web site at www.MyMathUniverse.com/digitsTexas. This Web site contains additional content that provokes their interest, engages them in math, and provides additional preparation for their assignments.



Review

This guide explored the digits® Texas middle school math program.