



help program

Teaching Math to English Language Learners

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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DDI's *HELP Math* Premier Diagnostic-Prescriptive Tool to Provide for Differentiation Tool provides a seamless link between diagnostic assessments and prescriptive interventions

Carbondale, Colorado - March 2, 2010 – Digital Directions International (DDI) has significantly enhanced their ***HELP Math for ELL and Special Needs*** program by integrating an innovative diagnostic-prescriptive tool. This comprehensive and adaptive tool increases the instructional effectiveness of ***HELP Math*** by allowing the teacher to pretest students to better individualize instruction.

The grade-level and adaptive pretests save teachers time by auto-generating custom learning pathways to provide a seamless link between diagnostic assessments and prescriptive interventions. Most significantly, the new assessments target not only grade-level deficiencies, but also identify and help remediate gaps in students' foundational/prerequisite skills. This unique feature helps ensure student mastery and aligns with the 2008 National Mathematics Advisory Panel's recommendations for focusing on student proficiency with key topics and concepts. New grade level post-tests provide teachers with accountability for results.

HELP Math for ELL and Special Needs is ideal for inclusive classrooms because it is able to differentiate instruction and create individualized learning pathways based on the specific prerequisite skills and conceptual knowledge students need to reach grade-level proficiency in math. Teachers are now able to effortlessly target and fill the specific learning gaps of their students.

"Teachers are working harder than ever these days to try to meet each student's individual and varied needs. This addition to ***HELP Math*** does the data collection and analysis for them, freeing up more of their time," said John Ramo, Founder and CEO, Digital Directions International. "It allows teachers to individualize instruction and connect one-to-one with their students. I am very excited to see the successes in our schools with this new tool."

HELP Math for ELL and Special Needs, winner of the 2009 SIIA CODiE award for the *Best Educational Program for Students with Special Needs*, was initially designed for English language learners (ELLs), but has since added extra accommodations and has been proven to effectively help and engage students with special needs. ***HELP Math*** was developed using principles of Sheltered Instruction, research-based and validated techniques that have proven effective in developing proficiency with academic content. Delivered entirely via the web, ***HELP Math*** was shown to significantly increase students' test scores in independent, randomized studies.

"I love this new tool for ***HELP Math!***" said Megan Hartmann, Math Teacher, Glenwood Springs High School, Colorado. "I am now able to better meet the highly varied needs of my students. My classroom consists of students with a wide range of abilities, and now ***HELP*** not only provides wonderfully interactive math lessons, but also differentiated pathways for each of my students that need extra help in math."

Barbara Freeman, President, DDI and the initial creator of **HELP Math**, added, “We developed the adaptive diagnostic-prescriptive tool in direct response to teacher demand. To date there has been a substantial disconnect between diagnostic assessments and prescriptive interventions, which are designed to specifically help English language learners and Students with Special Needs succeed academically. HELP Math is the first mathematics intervention to provide a seamless link between the two.”

About the *HELP Math Program*

HELP (*Help for English Language Proficiency*) **MATH for ELL and Special Needs** is a web-based math intervention designed to address the needs of English Language and other struggling learners to reach proficiency. Developed according to Sheltered Instruction principles, **HELP Math** is effective for students in grades 3-8 who need to develop the academic language and concepts in the math content area. **HELP Math** is the only multimedia, internet-delivered math program that embeds research-based principles found to be successful for ELL content area achievement. Visit <http://helpprogram.net> to learn more.

About DDI

Digital Directions International, Inc. is a socially-responsible, educational technology pioneer and publisher of digital educational content. DDI is focused on developing and co-distributing online supplemental and educational intervention software products in mathematics, especially for English Language Learners and Students with Special Needs.

HELP Math for ELL and Special Needs is distributed in the U.S. by Academic Business Advisors. Please contact Alan Stern at ABA for more information; alan.stern@academicbiz.com, 516-429-1877.

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