Title of Project: Targeting TEKS Mastery
Subject or Class: Math
Number of Students:
Grades:
Proposed Total Budget:

Project Summary: This project introduces students to Lone Star Learning's TEKSas Target Practice, a supplemental math program. It is designed to support our current math curriculum by providing a continuous 10-day spiral review covering 100% of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Built on the science of learning, this program taps into the concepts of retrieval, interleaving, and feedback. It provides students with a reliable and balanced daily math exercise while maintaining simple implementation for teachers.

Why is this needed, or what problem are you trying to address? How does this address district/campus goals?
Students often struggle with long-term retention of math concepts. Traditional instructional models teach a specific TEKS objective in isolation, test it, and move on. On recent state assessments, math proficiency scores have dropped in part due to a lack of consistent exposure to TEKS skills. Teachers need a time-efficient system to consistently spiral math TEKS concepts and skills throughout the school year, supporting retention and deeper understanding while promoting confidence at test time.

How does this project improve student outcomes, or why is this relevant for our students?
TEKSas Target Practice provides a daily touchpoint for the practice of state-required math skills, embedding consistent review into classroom culture, and eliminating "Test Cramming" stress. Each day, students will become more familiar with test-like phrasing and demonstration of skill understanding as they build testing stamina and confidence. These daily exercises require students to demonstrate diverse math skills and create a well-rounded understanding of math concepts for all student populations while providing important insight for teacher assessments of student comprehension.

What do you hope to accomplish? How do you plan to measure success? How do you plan to use these materials to address this need?
100% of participating classrooms will implement the 10-day spiral review cycle daily to ensure comprehensive exposure to all grade-level TEKS. Increase in student math proficiency scores will be compared from the beginning of the year to the end of the year, using state-aligned assessments.

Additional Comments:
TEKSas Target Practice is an evidence-based supplemental intervention directly targeting Texas state standards. Teacher training materials are included to ensure standard implementation across all classrooms included in the proposal.

The Power and Purpose of TEKSas Target Practice™

Not for sale or use outside the State of Texas.

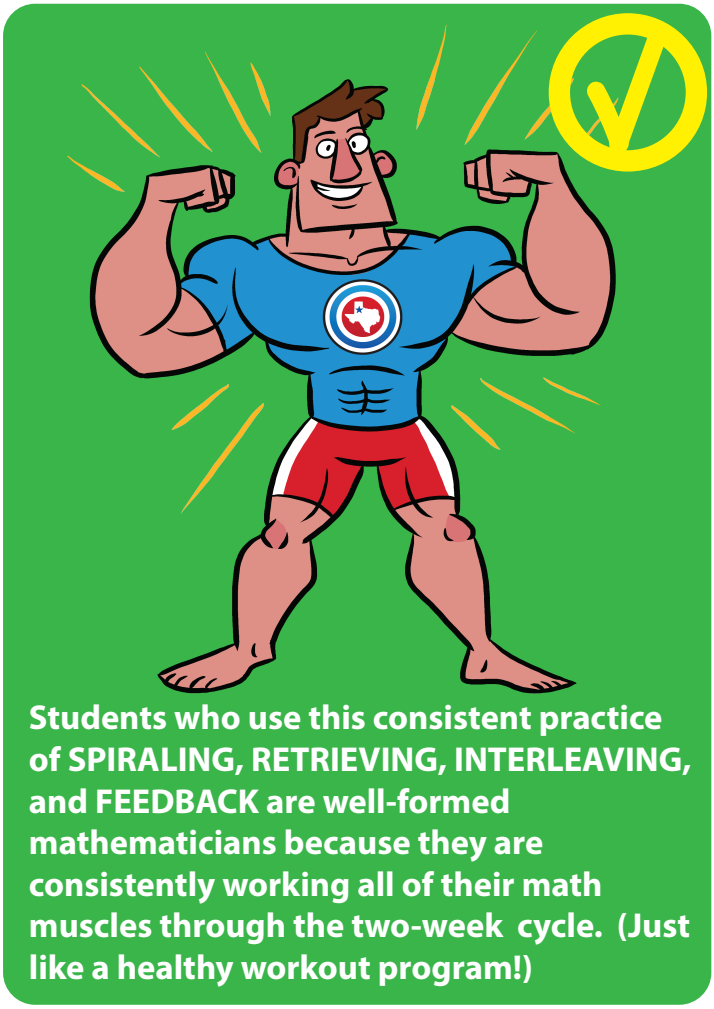
TEKSas Target Practice is built on the science of learning. This one program taps into the powerful teaching tools of:

Spiraling Practice- Every 10 days, students see every TEKS for their grade level. This ensures that students don't forget what you have taught! Spiraling strengthens long-term learning and decreases forgetting.

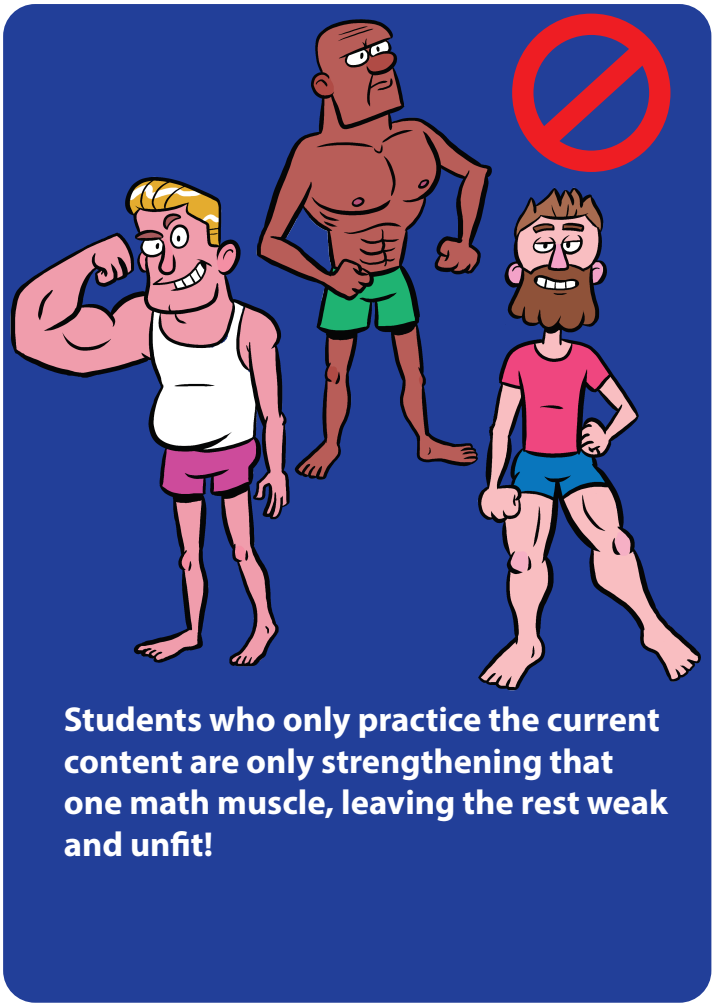
Retrieval- As students come back to content every two weeks, they are given the opportunity to retrieve what they know. We often focus on getting information into students' heads but students need the opportunity to pull information out. Studies show this no-stakes practice increases student performance.

Interleaving- By mixing up TEKS within a typical day, students can no longer plug and chug answers! They have to choose and retrieve the strategy, algorithm, process, etc. needed to successfully come to the answer.

Feedback- The daily feedback through progress monitoring gives students a realistic picture of their progress.



Students who use this consistent practice of SPIRALING, RETRIEVING, INTERLEAVING, and FEEDBACK are well-formed mathematicians because they are consistently working all of their math muscles through the two-week cycle. (Just like a healthy workout program!)



Students who only practice the current content are only strengthening that one math muscle, leaving the rest weak and unfit!

****Remember, TEKSas Target Practice is intended to take 10-15 minutes a day.**
It is the perfect support to the great teaching already taking place in your classroom!

The Power of Preview

Introducing content to students before formally teaching it might feel uncomfortable, almost like setting them up to struggle. However, research suggests that preview activities, also known as "frontloading" or "pre-teaching," offer several benefits to students before they engage with new content. Here are some of the key findings:

1. Activates Prior Knowledge

Previewing allows students to recall what they already know, which helps bridge gaps between prior understanding and new material. When students connect new information to what they already know, they can better organize and retain that knowledge.

2. Encourages Awareness of Learning Gaps

By engaging in preview activities, students become more aware of areas where their understanding is lacking. This self-awareness allows them to focus more on challenging aspects during the actual lesson.

3. Facilitates Deeper Learning

Providing a preview helps students see the "big picture" of what they will learn, creating a foundation for deeper understanding. Instead of compartmentalizing information, students make valuable connections between topics, which enhances comprehension and retention.

4. Saves Time for Teachers

Teachers can use preview activities to assess what students already know. This formative assessment helps adjust instruction to meet student needs, saving time by allowing more focused teaching.

5. Promotes a Growth Mindset

Preview activities encourage a productive struggle, which teaches students that challenges are an essential part of learning. This promotes resilience, persistence, and the development of a growth mindset, as students learn to embrace difficulties and see them as opportunities for growth.

6. Supports Student Engagement and Direction

By giving students a sneak peek into the content, they are more aware of the learning goals. This helps them understand the relevance of what they are learning and motivates them to engage more actively.

7. Improves Long-Term Retention

Research also shows that previewing material can help with long-term retention of content. The preview process creates an initial exposure to key ideas, priming the brain to better absorb information during actual instruction.

Overall, preview activities create a more scaffolded learning environment, promoting better understanding and encouraging students to engage actively with content.

The Power of Preview!

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One of the things we hear the most is, "But how I am supposed to do the full spiral if I haven't taught all of the TEKS yet? We encourage you to trust the process and stick with it. The science behind **TEKSas Target Practice** has been proven to work. Teachers who consistently use this tool as it is designed to be used have results that get attention!

TEKSas Target Practice is designed to be a:

- **PREVIEW** of what students will learn
- **PRACTICE** of what they are learning
- **REVIEW** of what they have learned

The tendency in most classrooms is to focus on practicing what we are currently learning and then throw in a panicky review before assessments. You can find a beautiful balance with the implementation **TEKSas Target Practice.**

So why spend time on TEKS you haven't formally taught?

Research shows that preview activities:

- help students recognize gaps in knowledge
- make the students aware of the direction they are headed
- help students make valuable mathematical connections instead of content being so compartmentalized
- lay a foundation for deeper learning
- show the teacher where students are in their prior knowledge, saving time and informing instruction
- allow for productive/healthy struggle which teaches students to
  - -persist
  - -develop a growth mindset
  - -enjoy challenges
  - -see growth

TIME SPENT ALLOWING STUDENTS TO PREVIEW TEKS WILL BE TIME SAVED LATER!

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What do I do when the TEKS is new?

I do, you watch.

Model:

The teacher simply demonstrates the new concept and students listen and observe. Use related vocabulary students need to be familiar with. This builds the foundation for future learning. REMEMBER- you are just modeling!
Mastery is not expected at this point!

- Use teaching tips included in your printables
- Use digital tools built into the program
- Access the vocabulary list
- Use manipulatives

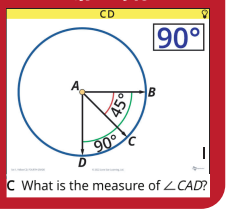
I do, you help.

Make Connections:

MOST TEKS can be connected to something your mathematicians already know. These may be things you've taught during the year or things they were taught in previous grade levels.

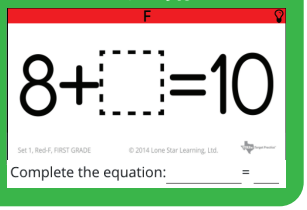
Example- 4th grade. Finding a missing angle is new to students.

4th Grade



Is it really new? Take mathematicians back to 1st grade and make the connection that you are finding a missing part!

1st Grade



- Let your students try to make connections by helping them retrieve concepts they already know.
- Use the last 6 weeks review of the previous grade built in your program.
- Access the correlation chart from previous grade.
- Talk to other teachers.

You do, I help

Give a BRIEF Mini Lesson:

As you work through the sets and approach the TEKS in your Scope and Sequence give a **brief** lesson pulling all the pieces together allowing students to move toward independence.

You do!

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