



# ED TECH SUCCESS STORIES

*During the 2020 pandemic America's schools needed to immediately transition from in-person learning to virtual. SIIA's Ed Tech members products help schools across the country bridge the gap keeping students, teachers and schools engaged and learning. Here are their stories.*

**IN FOCUS:**



**INCREASING ACCESS  
AND SUPPORTING  
TEACHERS**





## DALLAS AND ST MATH

At Solar Preparatory Schools for Girls, a public K-8 in Dallas Independent School District (ISD), teachers faced the challenge of converting lesson plans and curriculums to fit remote learning. A large part of this shift meant teachers needed to find ways to keep students engaged without the usual classroom setting for support.

As Solar Prep transitioned from in-person to remote learning at the start of the pandemic, educators used ST Math to keep students engaged during math lessons. Jessica Banda, a dual-language teacher at Solar Prep, used ST Math to help her address equity issues exacerbated by the pandemic for her third grade class. ST Math begins visually, with objects on the screen to manipulate. Children use creativity, informative feedback, and spatial-temporal reasoning to solve each puzzle. Thanks to ST Math's innovative and inclusive design, it helped Jessica teach her students not only the math concepts themselves, but also problem-solving methods, including trial-and-error. While using ST Math students kept journals to track their work, which gave both families and teachers visibility into the step-by-step breakdown of what they were doing in class, and provided focus on areas needed for targeted assistance. ST Math allowed teachers like Jessica to keep students engaged, with families in the loop, for an enhanced remote learning experience.

## PROVIDING GREATER EQUITY AND ACCESS

Pre-pandemic, MIND's ST Math program was used by approximately 1.3 million students.

- When schools closed and switched to remote instruction in March 2020, MIND offered free access to ST Math and created a COVID-19 resource page where parents and schools could sign up for the program.
- In just three days over 7,000 signed up. Signing up allowed schools free access until June 30, 2020.
- The result was that more than 1.8 million additional students received free access to ST Math in the early months of the pandemic.
- ST Math removes language barriers to learning allowing all students to participate and engage in all aspects of the lesson.
- MIND is continuing to offer free access to their ST Math Homeschool program for families through June 30, 2022.





## SUPPORTING TEACHERS

MIND also shared additional resources and best practices to help guide educators on how to best engage students and keep them on track with grade-level learning. They shifted the focus of their Education Success team - in charge of district, school, and family success with ST Math - to offer support and training that would help remove barriers and make learning accessible to as many students as possible. On their blog, MIND features posts that highlighted educators around the country and methods that have worked for them. It includes different ways teachers have used and adapted ST Math in class, as well general tips for distance learning and learning recovery in general.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The focus on accessibility of resources is key to successfully partnering with schools and parents. MIND saw and met a need faced by millions all over the country, and provided support to both teachers and families. By increasing access, they extended the reach of their learning tools and are helping to ensure that students will be successful after the challenges of this period and have a smooth transition into school this fall.

[www.mindresearch.org](http://www.mindresearch.org)

*For more information on SIIA's Ed Tech offerings and member stories, please visit, [sija.net/education](http://sija.net/education)*

