



## BILINGUAL TUTORING FOR ESOL STUDENTS

Over two million students in the nation's public schools are trying to learn in a language that is not their own. SMARTHINKING offers bilingual, online Math tutoring and a writing program targeted to ESOL students.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Personal Attention.** To succeed, struggling students need personal attention from a trained, experienced tutor. Providing more testing and content without additional guidance repeats strategies that already failed these students. Over 80% of SMARTHINKING e-structors (SMARTHINKING tutors) have a master's degree or higher in their discipline. All have been screened, trained, and receive ongoing professional development. SMARTHINKING can staff bilingual e-structors in Math and can give students access to writing e-structors who specialize in working with ESOL students. Students can work with live e-structors on a "drop-in" basis, can pre-schedule times, or can submit questions for next day response.
- Close the Gap** – ESOL students blossom when the subject is presented in a language that they can understand. Further, tutoring over the Internet is private, allowing students to get help without feeling embarrassed.
- Administration and Tracking** -- Administrators and teachers are always just a click away from aggregate and individual information about student progress. With this feedback, teachers can modify and enhance classroom instruction, and administrators can see an immediate return on investment.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Math Help in Spanish AND English** — A school, district or state can choose to offer Math instruction in Spanish at any time of the day, week, or year. The client can specify custom training for the tutors and indicate any special curriculum that should be followed. Bilingual instruction can complement math tutoring provided in English or be offered separately.
- Online Writing Lab (OWL)**—E-structors in the OWL comment on higher order concerns (like thesis statements and organization) and lower-order concerns (such as sentence-level or punctuation errors) presented in drafts. In addition, students can work in real time with a writing e-structor. E-structors are trained to identify and address writing problems common to ESOL writers. SMARTHINKING also provides a special online manual for ESOL writers.

### BILINGUAL MATH TUTORING -- IN PRACTICE

Located in the mountains of North Georgia, Whitfield County is home to numerous carpet factories. Over the last decade, thousands of Hispanic families have migrated to Whitfield County, Georgia to find work. Whitfield County School District struggled to find a way to serve this fast growing population of Hispanic students. SMARTHINKING's bilingual online tutoring is helping to provide the answer. Larijo Calhoun, ESL Director of the Whitfield County School System, explained: "we like that there is a human being on the other end—it's not an interactive CD-ROM. Students will be using technology to further their academic achievements, and maybe later -- apply these skills to their careers."

### AT A GLANCE

**What:** One-on-one, live, online English or bilingual tutoring in Mathematics. ESOL specialists provide detailed feedback in response to student writing.

**Why:** ESOL students thrive when they can get help in their own language. Further, the Internet provides a level of privacy that minimizes student embarrassment.

**Customization:** Bilingual e-structors know the classroom curriculum and work on relevant problems. Writing assignments from class are honed in the Online Writing Lab (OWL).

**Experience:** SMARTHINKING provides bilingual Math tutoring for schools in Whitfield County (GA), Worcester County (MA), the city of Chelsea (MA) and the town of Revere (MA).