



## HIGH-STAKES TEST PREPARATION AND TUTORING PROGRAMS

The numbers are staggering. Between 15% and 50% of all high school students are likely to fail a state's high-stakes high school graduation test. Using the Internet, SMARTHINKING can develop and staff an online preparation and tutoring program—including assessments, curricula, and custom-trained tutors—to prepare students for the high-stakes test.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Personal Attention.** To succeed, students who have failed high-stakes tests need personal attention from a trained tutor. More assessment and more content, without additional human resources, simply replicate a learning structure that has not succeeded for these struggling students. Over 80% of SMARTHINKING tutors have a master's degree or PhD in their discipline. All have been screened, trained, and participate in ongoing professional development activities. Students can work with live tutors on a "drop-in" basis, pre-schedule times, or submit questions for next-day response.
- Customization and Scalability.** SMARTHINKING can customize a preparation and remediation program for a school's, district's, or state's needs and grow it to serve as many students as need assistance. Times, days, dates, diagnostic tests, curricula, practice materials, tutor training, tutor language, and look and feel can be determined by the client or by SMARTHINKING. Further, a client may choose to staff its own online tutors either separately or in combination with SMARTHINKING's estructors.
- Administration and Tracking.** At any time, administrators and teachers are only a click away from information about student assessment, progress, and instruction. This data can inform classroom instruction and allow administrators to see an immediate return on the investment.

### AT A GLANCE

**What:** Custom, online test preparation and tutoring program for students at risk of failing high-stakes graduation exams.

**Why:** Online tutoring programs can serve large numbers of students, integrate tutoring with testing data and curriculum, be provided anywhere at anytime, and help students overcome anxiety about receiving academic assistance.

**Customization:** Times, dates, assessments, curricula, language, and training can be customized to the client's needs.

**Experience:** SMARTHINKING provides custom programs in Massachusetts and in many other states.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Assessment** – Using questions from past state tests or other sources, SMARTHINKING creates a diagnostic test for students to take at the beginning of the program.
- Content and Curriculum** – Exercises aligned to a state's or district's curriculum can be built for each program from content already developed by the state, district, or SMARTHINKING.
- Tutoring and Support** – Tutors can immediately access a student's diagnostic test results, curriculum progress, and past interactions to better target the tutoring session.

### HIGH-STAKES TEST PREP—IN PRACTICE

In partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Education, SMARTHINKING tutors thousands of 11<sup>th</sup> graders who failed Massachusetts' high school exit exam. "The tutors have a tremendous rapport with the kids, and I think it's due to the way SMARTHINKING trains them," said Paula Sack at the Massachusetts Department of Education. "It's going so well. It's beyond our wildest dreams."