Some important facts...

- In 2012, 83% of students passed the Algebra I EOC exam... 57,681 students did not.
- In 2012, 65% of students passed the Algebra II EOC exam.
- The Newly Adopted TEKS, which will be implemented in the 2014 school year, will include algebra related strands in grades 6-8 that include mathematical process standards, number and operations, proportionality, expressions, equations, and relationships. It will also require grade 6 students to be fluent in integer operations, as well a multiplication and division of positive rational numbers and grade 7 students to be fluent in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of rational numbers.

How Do I Get Access?

The MSTAR Universal Screener can be accessed through the Project Share Gateway at www.projectsharetexas.org. It can also be accessed directly at http://mstar.epsilen.com. This option will allow you to bypass the Project Share site entirely. Users will see an MSTAR icon after logging in. The same username and password is used for either option.

About MSTAR

The MSTAR initiative is in collaboration with Education Service Center Region XIII and the Texas Education Agency. It began in the summer of 2010 with the goals of (1) improving overall mathematics instruction, and (2) impacting student achievement. MSTAR is comprised of three lead components structured and integrated to support students and teachers in grades five through eight to achieve mathematics success.

Research in Mathematics Education is a research and outreach unit of the SMU Simmons School of Education and Human Development with the goal of providing evidence-based support to improve students' mathematics achievement in North Texas and across the country.
Courses Available

- TEA MSTAR Academy: Executive Summary
- TEA MSTAR Academy: Grades 5/6
- TEA MSTAR Academy: Grades 7/8
- TEA MSTAR Academy: Addressing the G/T Learner
- TEA MSTAR Academy: Addressing CCRS in Math
- TEA MSTAR Academy: Fraction/Decimal
- TEA MSTAR Academy: Lesson Study Model Implementation
- TEA MSTAR Academy II
- TEA MSTAR Academy: Universal Screener Overview 2.0
- TEA MSTAR Professional Development
- MSTAR Universal Screener

Key Algebra Related Content

- Understanding Positive Rational Numbers, their Representations, and their Uses
- Understanding Variables and Expressions, and their Applications

MSTAR Universal Screener

- Designed to be administered to all students and identifies students’ level of risk for not being ready for algebra.
- Launched in 2010 to 129 school districts, the MSTAR Universal Screener served 55,244 students in the fall, 115,847 in winter, and 72,022 in spring 2011, indicating year-end growth of 30%.
- During the 2011-12 school year, fall numbers increased significantly with 239,307 students participating in the assessment, trending down slightly in winter to 208,990, and 195,061 in spring reporting an 18% decline for the year but overall growth for the project of 170%.

The Universal Screener helps teachers make two important decisions within the Response to Intervention (RTI) process:

- Are students on-track or at-risk for meeting expectations in algebra and algebra-readiness?
- What is the degree of intensity of instructional supports or supplemental interventions needed for students who are at-risk for not meeting expectations in algebra? Researchers, along with TEA, delivered Professional Development in three training sessions for the MSTAR project for the Texas Education Agency in spring and summer 2011 and 2012. The trainings were replicated across the state by certified MSTAR Professional Development academies were created to support educators in preparing students for success in algebra. Teachers now have access to a series of professional development sessions to inform teaching and improve student achievement in key Algebra-related content.

MSTAR Diagnostic Assessment

- Identifies students who are “at risk” and provides “why” a student is struggling with a particular concept.
- Designed to address these issues.
- Provides tools for delivering supplemental instruction.

MSTAR Assessment

- Provides formative data to support informed decision-making in achieving algebra readiness and instructing to all students in literacy to all students.

MSTAR Professional Development

- Provides tools for delivering professional development.