



## Educator Talking Points on Graphing Calculators

Parents look to math and science educators like you for information on graphing calculators for their children's education. Here are some points that may be helpful when communicating with parents by phone, by email or letter, or talking with them in person:

- A graphing calculator is a learning tool that helps students work out mathematics and science problems by visualizing them. When students can see expressions, formulas and graphs on screen, they're able to explore concepts and make connections that lead to a deeper understanding.
- The global economy is becoming more high-tech. It's no coincidence that the fastest-growing, top-salaried jobs require high-tech skills. A solid background and proficiency in mathematics and science is critical and can benefit students regardless of their career path.
- Independent research studies<sup>†</sup> show that the use of graphing calculators helps improve the mathematical skills of students and their attitudes toward mathematics.
- Graphing calculators give students the ability to take an active role in how they learn. They're further engaged in the lesson being taught, more interested and willing to participate in classroom discussion. When students do well, they are confident and eager to learn more.
- A graphing calculator can help students build the skill sets to perform better in mathematics. A recent study<sup>†</sup> shows that in schools where students use a graphing calculator to complete classroom and homework assignments, achievement scores were higher.
- A graphing calculator can help students excel in a range of mathematics and science subjects, including algebra, geometry, statistics, chemistry, physics, calculus and others.
- Students can use a graphing calculator year after year – in middle school, high school and even college.
- The use of a graphing calculator can help students improve their test scores. Graphing calculators are required or recommended on the SAT\*, ACT, PSAT\* college entrance exams and AP\* course exams.

<sup>†</sup> To review complete research articles and other detailed references about TI graphing calculators and educational technology, visit [education.ti.com/research](http://education.ti.com/research).

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