MIND Research Institute is a nonprofit, social impact organization. It’s mission is to ensure all students are mathematically equipped to solve the world’s most challenging problems. We are dedicated to transforming math education so that learners of all backgrounds and abilities are empowered to deeply understand math.

MIND was founded in 1998 by three University of California researchers united behind a simple yet innovative idea: teaching math the way children learn—visually and experientially.

Possessing a deep, conceptual understanding of math creates the problem-solving foundation that all areas of STEM are built on. Research shows that early math skills are the most powerful predictors of later learning. However, only 25% of our students exit K-12 education proficient in math. While the overall proficiency numbers are alarming, looking deeper reveals that minority and low-income students are falling even further behind.

MIND’s flagship program, ST Math®, is a PreK-8 visual instructional program that leverages the brain’s innate spatial-temporal reasoning ability to solve mathematical problems. ST Math begins visually, and then gradually introduces traditional symbols and language as students master mathematical concepts. With ST Math, students develop the math and problem-solving skills, perseverance, and spatial aptitude necessary for success in STEM fields.

MIND also continues to develop innovative programs that bring the excitement of math to students, families, and communities outside of the classroom. By engaging students’ entire learning ecosystem, we maximize student outcomes and build positive mathematical identities.

At MIND, we believe every student has the capacity to deeply understand, and truly love math. Investing in math education builds the strong mathematical foundations necessary for academic success, college readiness, and 21st century career advancement.

Our social impact initiatives and programs include:

- Research and Development: We collaborate with researchers from universities and organizations around the country to perform fundamental and applied research in neuroscience, mathematics, and education. Our research partners include: University of California, Irvine; Harvard; North Carolina State University; WestEd; SRI; ACT; and NewSchools Venture Fund. We apply this research to continuously advance our program offerings.

- ST Math School Grants Program: We help education partners offset ST Math program costs through donor matching funds with the goal of helping more students grow into their potential.

- MathMINDs Games: Our story-based games bring together historical facts, ancient gameplay, mathematics, and the world around us to create a highly connected experience for students, teachers, and families.

- K-12 Game-a-thon: We challenge and empower students to design, build, and share games that feature creative solutions to mathematical problems.

Partnering for Greater Impact

MIND strives to accomplish our mission through social impact. We partner with corporations, foundations, and individuals who are investing in our initiatives through grants, in-kind donations, and volunteer opportunities.
Results and Impact

The evidence-based impact of ST Math continues to be shown through independent, third-party validations as well as annual, transparent evaluations of results from ST Math school cohorts. These join more than 100 studies on the efficacy of ST Math.

Independent research firm WestEd published a study on ST Math, the largest of its kind, to evaluate an edtech math program across state assessments. Grades that faithfully implemented ST Math improved significantly more than similar grades that did not use the program, outgrowing them in statewide rank by an average of 14 percentile points.

A study from The Journal of Research on Technology and Education found that students who play ST Math have higher mathematics self-beliefs than non-ST Math students, and the impact was strongest for students who started with low mathematics scores.

You can see more of MIND’s efficacy portfolio at stmath.com/impact/studies.

Recent Awards

2020 SIIA CODiE Finalist
- Best Game-Based Curriculum Solution

2019 SIIA CODiE Winner
- Best Overall Education Technology Solution
- Best Mathematics Instructional Solution for Grades PreK-8

2018 SIIA CODiE Winner
- Best Game-Based Curriculum Solution

The Tech Edvocate Awards 2020 Finalist
- Best Math App or Tool

2020 Inc. Best Workplaces
- Best Workplaces of 2020 (MIND Research Institute)

The EdTech Cool Tool Awards 2020 & 2019 Finalist
- Math Solution
- Games for Learning/Simulation Solution

The Journal Readers’ Choice Awards 2018
- Best Math Program (Silver)