The Education Research Center at Texas A&M University (ERC at TAMU) is pleased to announce that it has received a $150,000 grant to conduct an independent evaluation of Reasoning Mind programming in Texas schools. Reasoning Mind is a non-profit organization that was designated as a Technology-Based Supplemental Mathematics Instruction Pilot Program by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for grades 2-5. Hersh Waxman, Jackie Stillisano, and Yeping Li will be principal investigators for the study. Additional ERC researchers involved include Anna Boriack, Kim Wright, and Kayla Rollins.

Reasoning Mind partners with schools in Texas and other states to help provide students in early grades with a focused and rigorous mathematics curriculum. The program offers a comprehensive digital math education system that is aligned with Common Core State Standards and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), individualized online learning designed to engage students, and customized professional development and in-class support for teachers in grades 2 through 6.

Classroom observation, interviews, surveys, and analyses of student achievement data will be used to examine the mathematics achievement of Grades 2–6 students at a subset of schools receiving TEA support for the Reasoning Mind program. In addition, the evaluation will measure student and teacher participant perceptions and attitudes toward the program.

“This independent evaluation will provide insight into the effectiveness of the Reasoning Mind program in using individualized technology to increase students’ mathematics achievement and algebra-readiness,” said Waxman. “Research has indicated that algebra is one of the best predictors of academic achievement, and Reasoning Mind’s focus on algebra readiness is a promising component of the program.” Li addressed how the work of Reasoning Mind is addressing the challenge of engaging students in mathematics, noting, “How to engage students in learning math with a rigorous and coherent curriculum has long been a great challenge to mathematics teachers and educators. This project allows us to learn more about the potential of Reasoning Mind program in addressing this challenge with technology.”

For additional information, please contact Hersh Waxman at hwaxman@tamu.edu, Jackie Stillisano at jstillisano@tamu.edu, or Yeping Li at yepingli@tamu.edu.