

Benefits of having a Graphing Calculator

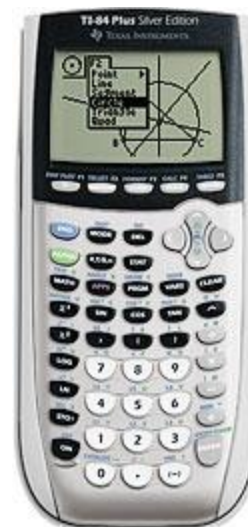
What is it?

A graphing calculator is a *learning* tool designed to help students visualize and better understand concepts in math and science. It allows students to make real-world connections in a variety of subjects. As they gain a deeper understanding of the material, they will acquire the critical thinking and problem-solving skills they need to be successful in school and in life.

When can students use it?

A graphing calculator is permitted on SAT, ACT and AP tests. Many states permit or even require graphing calculators for state exams. The TI-Inspire and the TI-84 Plus Silver Edition come preloaded with 500 SAT* and 500 ACT practice test questions to help students reinforce concepts prior to the test.

Graphing calculators have enough upgradeable features and memory to support students throughout high school and into college, delivering immense value and longevity of use. It is not just an investment in the technology, but more importantly in the student's growing skill sets.



The graphing calculator is not just for math and science! Games, puzzles, electronic flash cards, and cool downloads for history and geography can be found at this site:

<http://education.ti.com/educationportal/downloadcenter/SoftwareHome.do?website=US&tabId=1>

How do students benefit from purchasing their own?

There are numerous advantages to students owning a graphing calculator. Students will be able to use one in class and on homework. It's also a valuable study aid. Helpful programs and applications can be downloaded to the calculator — just like a computer. Owning a graphing calculator allows students to use it anytime to complete assignments, review work, and study for tests. The learning process extends beyond the classroom.

Why are teachers using and recommending them?

Independent research shows that graphing calculator use improves the math skills of students. Graphing calculators are incorporated into many math and science courses: pre-algebra, algebra 1 & 2, geometry, biology, statistics, pre-calculus and several others. They are recommended by teachers in a variety of classes.

How do they help students achieve more?

As a global economy becomes more high-tech, it's no coincidence that the fastest-growing, top-salaried jobs require high-tech skills. Math and science proficiency is necessary in a wide range of professions. A strong math and science understanding is necessary and will benefit a student regardless of the career path they take.

Effect of Graphing Calculators on Learning Outcomes:

Students using graphing technology have demonstrated better understanding of functions and variables, and performed better in solving algebra problems in applied contexts and interpreting graphs.




Technology that supports multiple representations is shown to increase students' use of visualization in problem solving and gains in understanding.

Appropriate use of graphing calculators is shown to provide all students at various levels greater access to complex mathematical concepts.

This information was obtained from the Texas Instruments Education website at:

<http://education.ti.com/educationportal/sites/US/sectionHome/parents.html>.

Which calculator is right for your student?

Calculator:	TI-Nspire™	TI-84 Plus Silver Edition	TI-84 Plus
This comparison chart was provided by TI. However, the math coach at COCISD recommends the TI-84+ Silver Edition; it is most widely used by educators & is sufficient for even AP Calculus.			
Approximate price	\$149.00	\$130.00	\$120.00
Key Features:			
Drop-down menus	X		
Built-in mouse	X		
Save, edit, & review files	X		
Split screen up to 4 ways	X		
Interchangeable keypads	X		
Memory ROM/RAM	20MB/16MB	1.5MB/24K	480K/24K
USB Cable included	X	X	X
Downloadable SAT/ACT prep questions	X	X	
Removable faceplate		X	
Organizer preloaded		X	
Recommended Courses:			
Pre-Algebra	X	X	X
Algebra 1 & 2	X	X	X
Geometry	X	X	
Trigonometry	X	X	X
Pre-Calculus	X	X	
AP Calculus	X		
Statistics	X	X	X
AP Statistics	X		
Business & Finance	X	X	X
College Algebra	X		
Biology	X	X	X
Physics	X	X	X
AP Physics	X		
Chemistry	X	X	X
Approved for the Following Tests:			
PSAT/NMSQT	X	X	X
SAT	X	X	X
ACT	X	X	X
AP	X	X	X

Where can a graphing calculator be purchased?

- Best Buy
- Office Depot
- Office Max
- Staples
- Target
- Walmart