FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THINKING MAPS ANNOUNCES MAJOR REVISION OF FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAM

New Language for Learning Emphasizes Sustained, Ongoing Professional Development

Cary, North Carolina — Thinking Maps, Inc. is pleased to announce that its groundbreaking guide Thinking Maps®: A Language for Learning has been revised and updated for today’s classrooms.

A Language for Learning establishes the foundation for schools implementing Thinking Maps. Thinking Maps are consistent visual patterns linked to eight specific thought processes. Using these patterns consistently across all subject areas and grade levels improves comprehension and higher-order thinking skills for students. A successful implementation of Thinking Maps includes:

- an individualized year-long Plan of Action designed to address identified student needs.
- a system of continued support involving trained trainers for each grade level and/or content area.
- online resources that provide continuous and embedded learning opportunities that are available anywhere and anytime.

The new A Language for Learning Teacher’s Guide and Trainer’s Guide materials and training are designed to meet the needs of today’s teachers and are based on the latest research on effective professional development. The revisions include substantial changes to the training-of-trainers model and additional emphasis on online tools. Specific changes include:

- a revised curriculum for the training of trainers with increased emphasis on the role of teacher leaders within effective learning communities.
- new online consultant support options for additional targeted training and strategic planning support.

Thinking Maps, Inc. has designed the new training to help schools move toward ongoing professional development and support within a continuous improvement model. This approach aligns with Learning Forward’s research-based recommendations for 21st Century Professional Development models that take place “within communities that are committed to continuous improvement, collective responsibility, and goal alignment.” Research has shown that using ongoing, sustained professional development models—including theory, modeling, practice, and coaching—substantially increases the transfer of new knowledge into actual classroom practice.

Thinking Maps is rolling out the new materials and training models to new customers effective immediately. Current customers are encouraged to send teacher leaders to the updated training so that schools can upgrade their Thinking Maps practice.

About Thinking Maps
Thinking Maps helps teachers, schools and districts teach essential 21st Century skills. Derived from research into how the human brain actually learns, our pattern-based tools, effective training materials and vibrant online community create a solid foundation that enables entire learning communities to share a common visual language — one that ties together thought processes and ideas and promotes increasingly important critical and creative thinking abilities.

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