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### **Raytheon's MathMovesU back-to-school survey highlights**

Raytheon's MathMovesU back-to-school online survey polled more than 1,000 middle school teachers across all subject areas. Key findings include:

- Most middle school teachers (67 percent) – no matter their subject area of expertise – recognize that math is the single most difficult subject for students to get back up-to-speed in after the summer break. The closest second was science at 26 percent.
- Most middle school teachers (50.4 percent), regardless of their area of expertise, say students' math skills regress most, compared to other subjects, during summer break. That percentage more than doubles the second place finisher – language arts (21 percent).
- As a result of that regression, almost two thirds of math teachers (64 percent) spend up to four weeks reviewing previously taught material. Almost two in 10 (15 percent) spend five weeks or more in review.
- Almost 90 percent of math teachers surveyed (86 percent) believe that only two in 10 students make a conscious effort to keep their math skills sharp over the summer break.
- Most math teachers (63 percent) believe that students would only need to focus on math for 15 to 60 minutes a week to retain their skill levels.
- More than 68 percent of math teachers agree that involved parents are the most important factor in keeping students' math skills sharp over the summer. This topped both private tutoring (18 percent) and attending summer school (7 percent).
- Almost all math teachers (90 percent) believe that capitalizing on middle schoolers' fascination with celebrities and professional athletes would be an excellent strategy for encouraging them to keep up their math skills during the summertime. Most teachers (63 percent) believe the Internet is the preferable format for keeping students involved with math over the summer.

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### **Editors Notes**

#### **Survey Methodology**

The Raytheon MathMovesU Back-to-School survey was conducted online with a sample of 1,032 sixth through eighth grade teachers representing a cross-section of US middle school teachers. All of the educators surveyed taught only one subject area, and each subject was represented by a comparable number of teachers (approximately 200 teachers in each subject area). Research was conducted during July 2006. The overall sampling error for this survey is +/- 3 percent at the 95 percent level of confidence.