

Welcome to another Issue of [The EdGate Observer](#)!



I recently participated in a series of user group meetings with teachers and administrators from across the country and was very surprised at the percent of participants who indicated they were NOT using textbooks in their classroom or school.

All of the participants indicated that they use state standards as one of the main guidelines as an approach to curriculum design. They were all seeking a much more modular aggregation of content and using the Internet and online resources to create their scope and sequence for instruction. This raises a number of questions for all of us in the educational publishing business. How much content should be available in digital formats? How much should be available as pre-designed courses or "a la carte". How fast are schools moving toward the hand-helds, electronic readers and access to open-source content as curriculum?

We start this discussion in this issue of The EdGate Observer with Burning Question and continue to provide you with updates on standards such as the new and we believe, excellent, set of new Colorado standards, plus the state of Early Childhood standards. We also asked Larry Johnson, our Science Advisor to give us his perspective on the Common Core standards but in the context of his discipline. If you are curious about the work we do with custom reports, take a look at the article and then the special we are running for that service.

Regards,
Sandra Schugren, EdGate General Manager

Burning Question

How Soon is Print Going the Way of the Dinosaur?

A study posted by Employment News and Trends indicates that printing, newspaper publishing, and wired telecommunications are heading for extinction. It's a trend that has been apparent given the digital age, but you may be interested in the current indicators for how soon this will take place. The trend is increasing, especially in education, to move away from the traditional hard copy materials and towards digital and online content. California, Texas, Idaho, Indiana, and West Virginia took steps in 2009 to introduce technology into the process of acquiring educational materials. Students in Virginia and West Virginia will be using wireless reading devices in the classroom this year.

For younger readers, functions such as text-to-speech audio assist struggling readers in deciphering difficult words. For high school students, digital textbooks are being piloted. And colleges and universities are looking to the digital learning solution to achieve improved student retention and pass rates, while simultaneously lowering the cost of education.

The companies making e-reader devices are focusing on new features, improved user

interfaces, and a multitude of accessories to attract a new wave of consumers. Furthermore, research indicates that one of every ten consumers who are online now owns an e-reader. With online retailers selling more electronic books than printed books this past holiday season, the trend is accelerating rapidly. At least one major textbook company has partnered with an e-book reader manufacturer on a product that combines an e-book reader, notepad, and tablet netbook into one device. This enables the student to not only read the text, but also to take and share notes online, search for phrases in the text, listen to the accompanying audio, and view images and video in full color.

With the younger generation connecting to each other across the globe in a myriad of wireless and electronic ways, formulating your products to work with these burgeoning systems should be a priority for your business.

Hot Topic



"Quality Counts 2010: Fresh Course, Swift Current" is an in-depth report recently released by Education Week and currently is available on their website, edweek.org. This report is a timely, detailed investigation of the latest movement towards a common set of nation-wide academic standards.

The study shows that as states have updated their standards, a more common group of concepts is being represented by more states, and thus a move to one common set of standards may make the move easier. Currently we see each state being unique in its set of standards, and varying widely in quality, depth of concepts, targeted concepts, and so on. Such disparity is illustrated by the fact that Tennessee has over 9,000 K-12 science standards, while Iowa has only about 250 science standards for the same grade range.

The report also points out that some states are being used by others as "models" from which to construct their own set of standards--with California, Indiana, and Massachusetts being the most frequently used. More interesting, perhaps, was the international influence, showing Singapore and Japan being used almost as often as these three US states in the areas of math and language arts.

Where the education pendulum will take standards in the future is unknown, but rest assured that wherever they go and however they change, [EdGate](#) will be keeping a watchful eye!

Larry Johnson
Project manager, Science Advisor
ljohnson@edgate.com

Client Solutions



EdGate Provides Custom Reporting and RFP Reporting Assistance

Typical correlation reports have been used by our clients for marketing, product development, teacher assistance, and gap analysis. With the upcoming textbook adoptions for 2010/2011, our clients are scrambling to provide these same correlation reports in the state required formats. When Florida began evaluating possible adoptions for its K-5 Core Reading

Program, Mondo Publishing provided EdGate with a 33 page specialized report that we used to incorporate the correlations for their 2200 lessons. Mondo Publishing then was able to submit this enhanced report to the State of Florida to support adoption of its precisely targeted materials.

In 2010 Texas is adopting the following:

- English Language Arts, Grades 2-8
- Spanish Language Arts, Grades 2-6
- Speech, Grades 6-8
- English I-IV
- English as a Second Language, Grades K-8
- English as a Second Language, Teacher Edition
- PreKindergarten Systems (including Spanish components and Teacher Edition)
- Spelling, Grades 1-2 (consumable)
- Spelling, Grades 3-6 (nonconsumable)
- Handwriting, Grades 1-3 (consumable)

There is a myriad of information on the Texas adoption, including these very informative links.

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/textbooks/proclamations/index.html>

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/textbooks/proclamations/proc2010/index.html>

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/textbooks/proclamations/midcycle2010/index.html>

Jodi Waugh

Language Arts Project Manager

jwaugh@edgate.com

Standards Update



Kudos to Colorado! The Department of Education Adopts New Standards

For over the past year, EdGate has been keeping a watchful eye on Colorado as it worked through its standards review process. Colorado's State Board of Education adopted new PreK-12 standards in December 2009 in several subject areas:

- Arts Education: Dance; Drama and Theater Arts; Music; Visual Arts
- Comprehensive Health & Physical Education
- Mathematics
- Reading, Writing and Communicating
- Science
- Social Studies
- World Languages

Colorado needs to be commended for this work! They took the time necessary to truly evaluate and develop guiding principles that apply across all grade levels and content areas while using a variety of resources nationally and internationally to assist them in the process.

The standards are consistent, clear, and concise. They are intended to provide more clarity and direction for teachers and to show how 21st century skills are essential to

learning. Each content area has prepared graduate competencies that apply to PreK-12. One guiding principle Colorado stated is "**Begin with the end in mind; define what prepared graduates need in order to be successful using 21st century skills in our global economy.**" These graduate competencies are the concepts and skills that all students who complete the Colorado education system must master to ensure their success in a postsecondary and workforce setting.

The [EdGate Standards Repository](#) has been updated to include these revised standards. Arts Education and World Language content areas are the only remaining subjects we are in the process of updating. These will be available for your correlation needs by the end of this month.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions regarding these standards and I will be happy to assist you. You can always join us on Twitter to get the most up-to-date posting regarding state standards in the [EdGate Standards Repository](#) at <http://twitter.com/EdGate>.

Kristie McCarley
Standards Manager

kmccarley@edgate.com
[253-853-7133](tel:253-853-7133) ext. 224

EdGate Services

Limited Time Offer: Custom Reporting Available at a Discount!

Ever wish you could add your company logo or a special feature to your correlation reports? Do you plan to respond to the RFPs for the Texas adoptions in 2010? Have you ever visualized how just a few changes in the default format of your correlation reports would work better for educators? If so, you need **EdGate's Custom Reporting Services!**

As a special introduction through March 30, 2010, EdGate is offering a 50% discount on the cost of custom report formats. So act quickly! Contact Leslie Kolber lkolber@edgate.com or Bill Walsh bwalsh@edgate.com. They'll be happy to help.

About Us

Founded in 1997, [EdGate Correlation Services](#) (EdGate) is a leader in the field of aligning educational content to US states, Canadian, and international standards.

Through the power of our technology and the professional experience of our subject-area specialists, [EdGate](#) provides more than 125 educational publishing clients with **accurate and continually updated correlations, on-demand correlation reporting capabilities, and effective website integration options.**

[EdGate](#) can also provide standards licensing, customized taxonomy solutions, correlation to assessment standards, and more.
