



## The EdGate Observer

November 2009

INSIGHTS FOR EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING IN THE 21st CENTURY

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Greetings!

We all recognize that the education of a child is like looking through a prism--there are so many facets that contribute to a motivated learner and success in school. This month, we would like to add our perspective about the growing world of online education (**Hot Topic**).

EdGate works with several online education publishers and we recognize the value that these publishers bring to the world of differentiated instruction and meeting the needs of our diverse student demographic.

The Common Core Standards have been receiving a lot of press recently, but in this issue of **The EdGate Observer** we turn our attention to the 21st Century Skills which EdGate has included in the ECS Standards Repository. The Partnership for 21st Century Skills has recently released a new MILE Guide, and we thought it timely to discuss the initiative in this newsletter. Other topics that we cover include a discussion about the difference between Pre-K and Early Childhood standards (**Burning Question**), assisting publishers with content development using a concept approach (**Client Services**), and in the **Client Solutions** section we describe how EdGate has worked with one publisher (Texas Instruments) to integrate textbooks into their product.

We again encourage you to follow us on Twitter to keep up with our day to day changes and to learn a little more about our unique and wonderful staff. [twitter.com/EdGate](https://twitter.com/EdGate)

We welcome your questions and any thoughts or comments.

Regards,

Sandra Schugren, ECS General Manager

### Burning Question

**What is the difference between Early Childhood and Pre-kindergarten?**



Early Childhood standards identify the appropriate learning goals and outcomes for

children from birth to age 5. In general, Early Childhood standards are used by public and private infant/toddler care facilities and/or preschools to support a fluid transition to the primary grades in a Pre-K to 12 system.

Pre-kindergarten standards identify the learning objectives for a specific subject in a state (i.e., Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies). They focus on the subject content rather than the growth and cognitive development of a child, which are more thoroughly covered in the Early Childhood standards.

Many publishers wish to have their materials correlated to standards for young children and do not realize there are actually two sets of standards that can apply to this age group: Early Childhood Education standards and Pre-kindergarten subject-specific state standards. EdGate has both sets of standards in the ECS Repository.

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## Hot Topic



### **Student Diversity and Differentiated Instruction Drive Online Education**

While "brick and Mortar" institutions will probably never be eliminated, it's easy to see why a vast and growing number of people are educating themselves via online courses. The reasons may well be accessibility, flexibility, and quality--all compelling and contributing to the attractiveness of this popular mode of learning.

There were over 4 million students taking online courses back in 2005, and an estimated 10 million are doing so today. In our fast-paced, need-it-now world, students can "attend" a course anytime, anywhere. People of all ages can attend classes no matter what their work or travel schedules might be, and from anywhere in the world that has Internet access, 24/7. It just doesn't get any easier!

Growing competition has resulted in courses and materials that are not only top-notch and house plenty of depth and breadth within each course, but also offer a wide variety of subjects and topics. As a result, colleges, universities, businesses, and other organizations worldwide now offer their students fully accredited online degree, vocational, and continuing education programs in abundance.

A big perk for students using the Internet to attend class, research information, or communicate with other students, is that they are learning skills and using technologies that will be critical in the 21st century communities, including post high school education.

Many have jumped on the "online education train," like Apex Learning, Florida Virtual School, Insight Schools, Pearson Education, to name a few--each with multiple course offerings. The beauty for students is that they can earn their high school diploma as well

as college credits! Many states offer this option and students are taking advantage of the opportunity in growing numbers. Washington State has a program called "Running Start," which if properly planned, can result in a senior receiving his or her high school diploma and having the first two years of college completed as well!

Other terms frequently used interchangeably with online education include: e-learning, distance education, distance learning, technology-based training, web-based training, computer-based training (generally thought of as learning from a CD-ROM). Labels, approaches, and technologies are changing constantly--but the long term benefits of online education for student learning are undeniable.

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## Client Solutions



### **Integrating Textbook Solutions into Your Products**

Texas Instruments has thousands of math and science activities available on the "Activities Exchange." These activities support the use of the TI graphing calculators in classrooms across the country. [EdGate Correlation Services](#) has correlated all of these activities to not only standards, but also to over 200 classroom textbooks.

Texas Instruments has been very innovative in displaying the textbook alignments on their product sites and providing pictures of textbook covers for easy search and identification by the teacher. [EdGate](#) learned from this great idea and now offers pictures of textbooks as an optional part of our services.

Teachers like having their adopted textbooks in the alignments for content items so they know exactly what and where they can use supplemental materials with the texts. Contrary to what some say, textbooks still drive a lot of curriculum in a lot of classrooms.

While TI's main focus has been math and science education, [EdGate](#) has continued to add textbooks from other areas such as social studies, health, and language arts. For some great examples, visit [ti.com](http://ti.com)

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### **What do the 21st Century Skills Mean for you?**

21st Century Skills are intended to help students master the multi-dimensional abilities required of them in the 21st century.

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills is the leading national advocacy organization focused on integrating 21st century skills, such as critical thinking, problem solving and communications skills, into core subjects for this purpose. The Partnership developed a framework that targets the following interdisciplinary themes:

- Global Awareness
- Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy
- Civic Literacy
- Health Literacy
- Learning and Innovation Skills
- Communication and Collaboration
- Information Media, and Technology Skills
- Life and Career Skills

There are 14 states that have joined the 21st Century Skills Leadership State Initiative. Simply put, this means that they have made the commitment to revamp their states' content standards to infuse these core 21st century skills, which will ultimately help prepare students for cutting-edge jobs of the modern economy.

The ECS Repository currently offers this framework from the Partnership for 21st Century Skills which provides guidance for states to develop content standards to include 21st century teaching and learning. States will use the concepts and main ideas of this framework for that purpose. This is a valuable resource for publishers to use in reviewing their content correlations to gain insight as to how these skills will relate.

Keep in mind that as states implement and adopt new standards to include 21st century skills, EdGate will be actively updating those in our repository as well. The 21st century skills will most likely be embedded within the standards, and not presented as a separate set of "new" standards for the state.

To find the current adoption dates and upcoming information about standards in the ECS Repository, clients can log into <http://correlation.edgate.com/>. If you don't find what you are looking for, feel free to contact me and I will be happy to research and answer any question you may have.

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## EdGate Services

### Top 100 Concepts Taught in U. S. Classrooms

Looking to simplify product development? It all starts with knowing where to begin. EdGate can now provide your content development team with valuable reports on the **Top 100 Concepts** currently taught by subject and grade range across the country.

Based on a comprehensive analysis of state curricular and assessment standards, these customized reports can help you **save time and money** as you develop new or revised content for publication. Take the guesswork out of product development with customized reports from [EdGate Correlation Services](#).

For more information, please contact Leslie Kolber [lkolber@edgate.com](mailto:lkolber@edgate.com) or Bill Walsh [bwalsh@edgate.com](mailto:bwalsh@edgate.com).

They'll be happy to help you.

## 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.

### Quick Links...

[Our Website](#)