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## The EdGate Observer

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April 2016

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Greetings everyone,

In this month's newsletter, we focus on the most recent education news pertaining to social and emotional learning skills (Hot Topic), New York's Opt-out Movement (State Highlight), EdGate and IMS Global, (EdGate Services) and following up with new additions to the EdGate Standards Repository (Standards Update).

As always, EdGate is your source for staying current with new developments in education and the impact of educational standards.

Regards,

**Gina Faulk**

EdGate General Manager

### Hot Topic

#### Social and Emotional Learning Skills

The Washoe County School District of Nevada strives to raise its high school graduation rate to 90 percent by 2020. The district implemented a strategic plan in 2010 to help reach this goal. Teaching soft skills is one of the measures the new plan will implement. Until recently, it has been difficult to gauge how skills such as decision making affect academic success including graduation rates.



With the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act, states are required to include at least one measure other than test scores in their accountability systems. Eight urban districts, including Washoe County, have committed to implementing comprehensive social-emotional learning practices for students in elementary, middle, and high schools allowing researchers from the American Institutes for Research to measure their results. Each district has adapted administrative policies to integrate the new practices. Federal grants and assistance from CASEL, the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning, will support teachers, students, and administrators in working together to develop data that could change how social and emotional skills are implemented in classrooms across the country.

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### Top Stories

#### [Education Secretary Calls for Change in Career and Technical Education](#)

Education Secretary John B. King Jr., called for increased student access to career and technical education classes, which can't always accommodate students who want to enroll.

#### [Using Ed Tech to Boost Development of Social-Emotional Learning Skills](#)

According to a new report from the World Economic Forum, educational technology can help students not only develop social skills, but problem solving skills which are critical in the 21st century.

#### [Why should kindergarteners code?](#)

STEM advocates believe

For more details visit <http://www.casel.org/>

**By: Alexandria Alo**

Digital Content and Art Project Manager

## State Highlight

### New York's Opt-out Movement

With testing season in full swing the state of New York's education policy is once again in the news as [the opt-out movement](#) protests the current system of standardized testing for students in grades 3-8. [The exponential growth of the opt-out movement](#) in the last few years has led to changes in the tests themselves, but consensus from the movement is that those changes are not nearly enough. [More than 220,000 students opted out of the state tests last year](#) and that number is expected to grow this year. Education officials have been trying to quell the dissidence by touting the efforts made to revamp the current tests. Governor Cuomo has promised more changes to come with the standards themselves, the assessments and the teacher evaluation system. The movement claims they will not be swayed and will continue to have their children opt-out until the promised changes are enacted. All eyes are on New York as the movement is expected to gain momentum in other states as well as they are debating the fate of their Common Core standards and assessments. Stay tuned as we will be watching to see what happens!



### Additional reading

**By: Jennifer Larson**

Social Studies Project Manager

## EdGate Services

### EdGate and IMS Global

EdGate has now been added to the IMS Global GUID Provider Registry. What does this mean for EdGate clients?

First, a little background information. Common Cartridge is a specification that describes the format for creating and sharing educational digital content, namely across Learning Management Systems (LMS). The specification was developed by IMS Global Learning Consortium and describes in detail the packaging format and infrastructure needed to support the format for presentation to the end-user. If an EdGate client has created Common Cartridge objects that also include standards alignment data (standards GUIDs), the client can include a Provider ID of "EG" to denote that the standards GUID came from EdGate. Someone using that object could use EdGate's EDR service to look up the context of the standard, or if they are an existing customer, use the alignments in their own system and display the correct standards data. The goal is to create easy interoperability of alignment data. The information may be used in constructing Common Cartridges v1.2. To read more about the IMS Global GUID Provider Registry, you can find more information [here](#).

**To reach our Sales and Marketing Team, choose your contact below:**



Gina Faulk  
General Manager  
[gfaulk@edgate.com](mailto:gfaulk@edgate.com)



Tracy Olstad,  
Account Manager  
[tolstad@edgate.com](mailto:tolstad@edgate.com)

children as early as kindergarten should be introduced to engineering and technology which can encourage creativity and innovation, as well as critical thinking.

### Did You Know?



Did you know that under the new ESSA law, career and technical education is included in the definition of a "well-rounded education" along with traditional academic subjects like math and English? For support with CTE standards, [contact us](#). Find out more about ESSA and CTE [here](#).

## Standards Update

Updates to **The EdGate Standards Repository** include:

- Canada British Columbia - Mathematics (2015 Grades K-9)
- Canada British Columbia - Social Studies (2015 Grades K-9)
- Canada British Columbia - Health and PE (2015 Grades K-9)
- College Board Accuplacer Program 2015 - Mathematics/Language Arts (2015)
- Michigan - Science (2016)
- National Physical Education Standards (NASPE) - Health and PE (2014)
- Nebraska - Mathematics (2015)
- North Dakota - Health and PE (2015 Physical Education)
- Ohio - English Language Learners (2015)
- Oklahoma - Language Arts (2016)
- Oklahoma - Mathematics (2016)
- SAT Redesigned Test Specification - Language Arts (2014)
- SAT Redesigned Test Specification - Mathematics (2014)
- Texas TEKS - Early Childhood Education (2015 Ages 3-5)
- Texas TEKS - Health and PE (2013 Health Education Amended)
- U.S. National - Health and PE (2014 NASPE)
- United Arab Emirates Learning Standards - Language Arts (2014)

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### Kristie McCarley

Standards and Operations Manager  
[kmccarley@edgate.com](mailto:kmccarley@edgate.com)



## About Us

EdGate Correlation Services works with over 200 content providers to increase the value of their products in a rapidly expanding digital world. EdGate uses its patented technology and highly skilled staff to assure client success. Employing its nearly two decades of innovation experience, EdGate has proven learning platforms, robust metadata tools and comprehensive correlation services to serve every clients unique needs.

EdGate currently focuses on correlation consulting, content and metadata development and management, media segmentation and licensing of international educational standards. EdGate Correlation Services LLC is a division of EDmin, Inc., a learning management and instructional technology solutions company based in San Diego, California.



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EdGate Correlation Services 6626 Wagner Way Suite 200 Gig Harbor, WA 98335  
<http://correlation.edgate.com>

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