

# The EdGate Observer

Connecting Publishers With What Works!



February 2015

[correlation.edgate.com](http://correlation.edgate.com)

## Greetings everyone,

In this month's newsletter, we focus on the most recent education news pertaining to Expanding and Contracting STEM (Hot Topic), Custom Requests (Client Solution), South Carolina Makes "Homegrown" Changes (State Highlight), Safeguarding Student Data in the Classroom and Beyond (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,

**Sandra Schugren,**  
EdGate General Manager

## What's New

As part of our ongoing efforts to stay in touch with our clients, meet new publishers, and keep pulse on the market, Tracy Olstad and Larry Johnson will be attending NSTA in Chicago March 12-15, 2015. If you are exhibiting, they will make every effort to stop by your booth and say hello! For those who want to discuss an existing project, new initiative, or simply want to learn more about EdGate services, please contact Tracy or Larry to schedule time to meet with you in advance.

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## Client Solution

### Custom Requests

Recently EdGate has received several inquiries about whether we provide custom service requests. When encountering this question - our answer is always - "Yes! Let us know what you are looking for and we will do our best to meet your needs."

Customization might include things like:

- Custom correlations for courses created for specific states
- Custom reports to provide the correlation data in a specific format
- Custom development in the implementation of the Client User Interface(s)



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## Top Stories

### [California plans investment in Career Technical Education](#)

California Governor Jerry Brown has allocated \$250 million for career pathways, according to a recent report by the Association for Career and Technical Education and the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium, with new legislation proposing to bump up that investment to \$650 million.

### [High School graduation rate hits all-time high](#)

Nationwide, 81 percent of students graduated on time in the 2012-2013 school year. The new record graduation rate follows the previous school year's record-high rate of 80 percent. According to the new data, more than half of all states had graduation rates above the national average.

[Study: Large online literacy achievement gap exists](#)

- Creating custom content targeting specific needs
- Custom course development

We love that we are able to fulfill the needs of our clients... so if you find yourselves looking for a service you are not sure we provide, please just ask your sales or project manager. We are happy to look into it and see what we can do.

For more information about our products and services, please visit: [http://correlation.edgate.com/products\\_services](http://correlation.edgate.com/products_services)

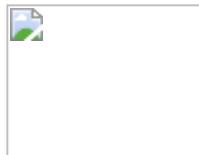
**By: Jennifer Larson**  
Project Manager



## Hot Topic

### Expanding and Contracting STEM

With the prominence that the concept of STEM has achieved in educational discourse over the past few years, it's no surprise that a number of people are proposing variations on the basic theme. You may already have heard of STEAM, which intends to integrate art into the curriculum defined by the basic quartet of science, technology, engineering and mathematics; others have proposed STREAM (which adds reading and art) and STEMSS (adding social studies).



But while the proposals for expanding STEM are driven by a desire to broaden and diversify the subjects a student will be exposed to, there's also a view emerging that [STEM itself is too broad a category](#): it's oriented towards preparing students for careers in a highly technical workplace, but those careers could range from academia or research science through bridge design to computer programming or hardware maintenance, and one program will not meet all of these needs. We can expect more proposals to [modify the basic idea of STEM](#), making it more flexible or more focused, in the coming months.

**By: Michael Walpole**  
Project Manager

## State Highlight

### South Carolina Makes "Homegrown" Changes

The 2015-2016 school year promises to be one of change for South Carolina schools. In response to the passing of the new law passed (Act 200), new English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics (MA) standards will be in place for the upcoming school year thus removing Common Core from the curriculum.



A selection of highly qualified educators, industry persons, and parents comprise a committee responsible for developing the set of new "homegrown" standards. The new English Language Arts and Mathematics standards unanimously passed through the State Board of Education (SBE) earlier this month. Approval from the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) and certification letter from a committee of Provosts from local Colleges and Universities for the "college ready standards" is scheduled for later this month. Upon another review the SBE anticipates the presenting of a final version by March 11th in time for schools to plan a summer of Professional Development and Training for South Carolina teachers.

Many students lack ability to evaluate the reliability of information on the web. Today's students may be skilled at texting and social media, but many are unable to perform online research and distinguish accurate information on the web, according to a new study.

## Staff Highlight

In this issue of the EdGate Observer, we would like to introduce a member of our Data Entry Specialist Team, **Christine Sargus**.

Christine is an administrative Ninja! She joined EdGate in 2012, transferring to Washington with her active duty Air Force spouse. With expertise in Microsoft Office she deftly handles any and all tasks passed her way. She has a Bachelor's of Science in Kinesiology and is a certified archery instructor and registered Girl Scout leader. She is the most interesting receptionist in the world with her great sense of humor and excellent customer service skills.

To learn more about this state development, visit the [South Carolina Department of Education website](#).

**By: Jodi Waugh**  
Project Manager



## EdGate Services

### Safeguarding Student Data in the Classroom and Beyond

EdGate Correlation Services and its parent company, EDmin, fully support the White House goal to ensure that data collected in the educational context is used only for educational purposes. This proposal was announced on January 12, 2015 and its purpose is to provide teachers and parents the confidence they need to enhance teaching and learning with the best technology possible. [Learn more about the legislative proposal](#).

EDmin is proud to be a signatory of the student data privacy pledge introduced in 2014 by the Future of Privacy Forum (FPF) and The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) and signed by 75 industry leaders.

The pledge will hold school service providers accountable to:

- Not sell student information
- Not behaviorally target advertising
- Use data for authorized education purposes only
- Not change privacy policies without notice and choice
- Enforce strict limits on data retention
- Support parental access to, and correction of errors in, their children's information
- Provide comprehensive security standards
- Be transparent about collection and use of data.

[Read the full privacy pledge](#).

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



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## Standards Update

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

- Florida Alternate Assessment Standards (Access Points) - Science (2008)
- New York - Social Studies (2014)
- New Jersey - Media Technology (2014)
- Ohio Assessment Standards - Science (2014)
- Tennessee Assessment Standards - Language Arts (2014)
- Tennessee Assessment Standards - Mathematics (2014)
- Tennessee Assessment Standards - Science (2014)
- Virginia - World Languages (2014)
- Wyoming - Career Technical Education (2014)

<http://twitter.com/EdGate>  
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**Kristie McCarley**

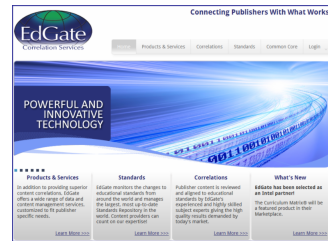
Standards and Operations Manager



## 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.



## Stay Connected



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