

The EdGate Observer

Connecting Publishers With What Works!



July 2014

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Greetings everyone,

In this month's newsletter, we focus on the most recent education news pertaining to Summer School for Teachers (Hot Topic), PARCC Assessment Standards Now Available! (Common Core Update), Where Did YOU Go on Your Summer Vacation? (Client Solution), ISTE 2.0 - The Take Away (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

Client Solution

Where Did YOU Go on Your Summer Vacation?

Easter Island? Chitzen Itza? New Zealand? Turns out it's a really big world after all, and EdGate is ceaseless in its pursuit of international standards for our repository. Publishers look to us for the most comprehensive database of standards and New Zealand is among them! Currently, [New Zealand's Ministry of Education](#) oversees standards for Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

And now, New Zealand's Education Ministry of Education is working to provide more opportunity for all children to participate in [early childhood education \(ECE\)](#), with a particular focus on supporting at-risk children. To that end, "The Green Party announced today that its key social platform for this election will be to tackle child poverty and inequality by ensuring every child in New Zealand has enough to thrive." The first of the key policy points for achieving this is to extend subsidies to cover 20 hours of free early childhood education for New Zealand's two-year-olds. [Read the full press release.](#)

In 2016, 98% of children starting school will have participated in quality ECE and through its Early Learning Information system (ELI) the ministry will have aggregated data to monitor performance of ECE services and parents will be able to make better informed choices about which ECE services might benefit their children. The implementation of the ELI system for the electronic transfer of enrollment and attendance data to the Ministry of Education means students get their National Student Numbers a year or two younger, enabling administrators and educators to see a more comprehensive picture of individual needs.

At this time, each of the United States has its own Early Childhood Education standards, with Head Start standards being the National

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Top Stories

[States Are Scrambling To Adopt New Education Standards](#)

States that drop the Common Core State Standards face the prospect of less time to create new academic standards, and are under intense political pressure. In Oklahoma, the state board normally reviews or revises standards for each content area every six years, while in South Carolina the period is seven years. Now, both states will have just over one year to develop new content standards for both English/language arts and math for the 2015-16 academic year.

[U.S. 15-year-olds Score Average in Financial Literacy](#)

When it comes to demonstrating knowledge in saving money, balancing a checkbook, investing and other financial skills needed to be successful, 15-year-olds in the United States perform right around average compared to other countries. According to a report to be released today,

set. With the focus on early learning in New Zealand, new standards may follow; and if they do, EdGate will have them.

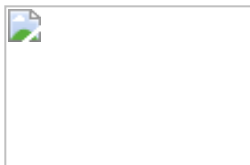
[Lisa Waugh](#)

Project Manager



Hot Topic

Summer School for Teachers



School districts across the country are holding training sessions on the Common Core standards for teachers even as some websites indicate the standards may be in jeopardy.

Teachers in Connecticut have already worked to better understand implementing the [Common Core academic standards](#).

In the Leon Schools district in Florida, teachers are [preparing for the 2014-2015 school year](#), when the new Common Core standards are implemented and the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test is deprecated.

Buffalo Island Central in Monette, Arkansas [started training teachers in June](#). More professional development is planned throughout the summer and in August prior to the start of the new school year.

Officials in Albany, New York are concentrating on helping teachers make the most out of the standards and the state has been hosting [statewide teacher conferences](#).

With the 2014-2015 school year being the target for full implementation by most states, many school districts are preparing teachers to succeed in the classroom.

[Kathleen Ideguchi](#)

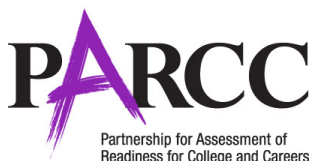
Project Manager



Common Core Update

PARCC Assessment Standards Now Available!

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) has released a set of test specification documents, including assessment blueprints and evidence statement tables, to help educators and the general public better understand the design of the PARCC assessments.



Blueprints are a series of documents that together describe the content and structure of an assessment. These documents define the total number of tasks and/or items for any given assessment component, the standards measured, the item types, and the point values for each.

more than one in six American 15-year-olds lacks proficiency in financial literacy, meaning they know only the bare minimum when it comes to making financial decisions.

[Amid Common Core Debate, North Carolina Opts to Tweak, Not Abandon, Standards](#)

Lawmakers in North Carolina agreed Wednesday to come up with an alternative to the Common Core State Standards in math and reading. The House and Senate agreed to a compromise that creates a commission to reexamine the Common Core standards and find ways to improve on them.

Staff Highlight

In this issue of the EdGate Observer, we would like to introduce you to a member of our Management and Sales Team, **Larry Johnson**.



Larry has been with EdGate since 2004. His extensive science background gives him very broad expertise to serve the needs of his clients. One of his strengths is developing solid relationships with clients, helping them get the most out of EdGate's many services and opportunities to best suit their needs. His experiences include 30 years of curriculum development and teaching in all science areas to junior and senior high students.

Evidence statements describe the knowledge and skills that an assessment item or a task elicits from students. These are aligned directly to the Common Core State Standards, and highlight their advances especially around the coherent nature of the standards.

The EdGate Standards Repository now includes the PARCC End of Year Evidence Statements for:

- English Language Arts Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9-10, and 11
- Mathematics Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and High School (9-12)
- Science (Literacy) Grades 6, 7, 8, 9-10, and 11
- Social Studies (Literacy) Grades 6, 7, 8, 9-10, and 11

As an EdGate client, if you are interested in adding these standards, please contact your Project Manager or a member of our Sales Team.

For more information on the PARCC documents, visit <http://www.parcconline.org/assessment-blueprints-test-specs>

EdGate Services

ISTE 2.0 - The Take Away

First, a BIG THANK YOU to those I was able to connect with at ISTE! It was great meeting you and I look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead. For those of you whom I missed, I am excited to make a connection with you soon!

Reflecting on the conference and all of the amazing technology and products now available to educators, two things were abundantly clear. First, the need for Professional Development for teaching to the Common Core standards as well as training on how to integrate and use technology in the classroom and secondly, the perception (or misconception) of the Common Core State Standards.

While we may not have the ability to help educators with technology training, we can certainly support their needs for quality aligned content through the work we do with our Publisher partners. Our efforts include teams of subject experts (former educators), a methodology that has been successfully tested for over a decade, and the foundation of it all, a Standards Management team that maintains a repository of over 1.8 million standards. From understanding standards state-by-state as well as identifying the gaps in Common Core National and the State Standards, our team can effectively and efficiently manage it for you. Whether the content you publish is digital or print, we can help get your resources classroom ready! It really can make a difference!

If you need help with a project or to learn more about EdGate services, please contact Tracy Olstad at tolstad@edgate.com or Larry Johnson at ljohnson@edgate.com. You can also learn more about EdGate products and services by visiting our website at <http://correlation.edgate.com>.



**The "EdGate Advantage is
YOUR Advantage"**



Standards Update

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

- Alabama - Social Studies (2010 Revised April 2013)
- Florida - Language Arts (2014)
- Florida - Science (2014 Literacy)
- Florida - Social Studies (2014 Literacy)
- Indiana - Mathematics (2014)
- PARCC Assessment Standards - Language Arts (2013)
- PARCC Assessment Standards - Mathematics (2013)
- PARCC Assessment Standards - Science (2013 Literacy)
- PARCC Assessment Standards - Social Studies (2013 Literacy)

Update: 2014-2015 Implementations

The state-specific Common Core adopted subjects are now fully implemented and integrated into the U.S. Standards sets in the EdGate Repository. The following state standards that were scheduled for implementation for the 2014-2015 school year are also fully integrated and available in the U.S. Standards:

- Ohio Science (adopted 2011)
- Ohio Social Studies (adopted 2010)
- Ohio World Languages (adopted 2012)
- Oklahoma Science (adopted 2014)
- South Carolina Science (adopted 2014)
- Tennessee Social Studies (adopted 2013)
- Texas TEKS Mathematics Grades K-8 (adopted 2012)

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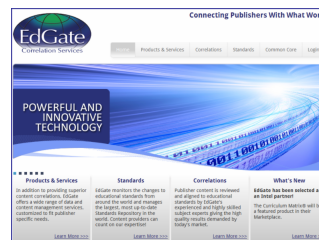
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About Us

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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