

The EdGate Observer

Connecting Publishers With What Works!



October 2014

correlation.edgate.com

Greetings everyone,

In this month's newsletter, we focus on the most recent education news pertaining to Digital Transformation (Hot Topic), Oklahoma State Regents Approves Educational Standards (State Highlight), The Everything Approach (Teaching Trends), Does Your Content Meet all State Standard Requirements? (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.

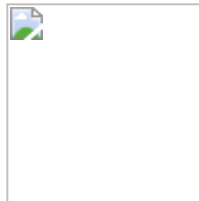
Regards,

Sandra Schugren,
EdGate General Manager

Current Events

The Everything Approach

Australian Professor David Christian and Bill Gates continue to collaborate on a new approach to teaching, using Christian's college course, entitled "Big History". Christian's course brings together a synthesis of history, biology, chemistry, astronomy, math, and other educational fields, which Christian weaves together into a unifying narrative of life on earth, explored on multiple scales of time and space. This 'integrated' approach is normally seen within a single subject area, like math or science, and sometimes on a bigger, combined scale with math and science, but rarely on such a grand scale as this approach! I like to ponder the similarity of Christian's approach with Stephen Hawking's Everything theory.



Wanting this course to be available to high school students, they began adapting Christian's college course into a high-school curriculum, with modules flexible enough to teach to freshmen and seniors alike. Gates hired a team of engineers and designers to develop a website that would serve as a free electronic textbook, rich with interactive graphics and videos.

In 2011, the Big History Project debuted in 5 high schools, and today the project will be offered free to more than 15,000 students in some 1,200 schools across the nation - from Brooklyn, New York, to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to Seattle, Washington. Last month, California announced that a version of the Big History Project course could be counted in place of a more traditional World History class.

How this approach will impact curriculums nationally and internationally is yet to be seen, but it is sure to be under the watchful eye of our online course clients, as well as publishers

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Top Stories

[**Most American no longer think a college education is "very important"**](#)

Amid a national debate about the worth of a college education, a respected annual poll about the education views held by Americans has found that only 44 percent of Americans now believe that getting a college education is "very important" - down from 75 percent four years ago. Furthermore, a majority of Americans (58%) said the curriculum used in their community's schools needs to change.

[**Alabama College and Career Ready Standards Review**](#)

The Alabama State Department of Education is asking for public feedback related to the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. Public review began on October 6th and will continue until December 15th. To access all available review forms and view the grade by grade review schedule

world-wide! And ultimately over time, how will educational standards of today's traditional nature embrace this approach? EdGate will be watching how this all unfolds, so stay tuned.

For an in-depth look into the course, visit <https://www.bighistoryproject.com/home>

For more reading, visit http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/07/magazine/so-bill-gates-has-this-idea-for-a-history-class.html?_r=1

Larry Johnson

Client Relationship Manager



Hot Topic

Digital Transformation



Mooresville, NC is [leading the country in success with its digital transformation](#) for the classroom while at the same time saving costs by leasing equipment. The personalizing potential of technology was necessary for schools as Mooresville experienced budget cuts, teacher layoffs, and a spike in class sizes. It has drawn national acclaim and media visibility from all over the world, as well as a visit from President Barack Obama.

Now several years into its digital conversion, Mooresville's graduation rate last year was 93 percent and up from 73 percent in 2008. Moreover, more than 85 percent of the students are heading to college. Technology in the classroom has allowed the people of Mooresville to develop new skills which ultimately improves the economy of the area.

Kathleen Ideguchi

Project Manager

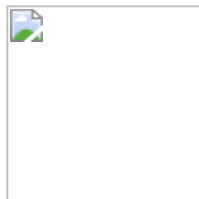


State Highlight

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Approves Oklahoma's Educational Standards

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education [voted unanimously](#) to approve the education standards currently in place for public school students in math and English as adequate to prepare them for college or the workforce.

The regents were directed by the Legislature to determine if Oklahoma's current Priority Academic Student Skills, or PASS, standards are "college and career ready." Two separate committees of university and faculty experts recommended approval after reviewing the standards by aligning them with standards for the ACT, the primary test used for college admission. The panels also made numerous suggestions for improving the standards.



Why Hillary Clinton Wants to Make Sure Pediatricians are Talking about Childhood Literacy

A new early literacy toolkit unveiled this past weekend by the former secretary of state includes a list of resources and tips for pediatricians who want to talk to parents about the importance of early childhood literacy. The toolkit, developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, comes several months after the group released its first policy statement regarding early childhood literacy, in which it encouraged pediatricians to promote literacy during health visits.

Staff Highlight

In this issue of the EdGate Observer, we would like to introduce a member of the EdGate Team, **Tracy Olstad**, Account Manager.



With over 20 years of combined experience in sales and customer service management, Tracy brings a broad range of skills to the EdGate team, most important of which is her commitment to high quality service and meeting clients needs. During her years of service, she was recognized for her devotion and ability to create solid relationships with her customers. In her role as an Administrative Services Coordinator, she won the Team Excellence Award for her contribution and support of the National Sales team and her leadership of three customer service branches.

Oklahoma reverted to the PASS standards under legislation approved this year to repeal Common Core standards. As a result, the state lost flexibility over how it spends about \$29 million in federal funding. State education officials say they could re-apply for a federal waiver for the 2015-2016 school year, and Governor Mary Fallin said now that the standards have been certified, she'll work with the U.S. Department of Education to revisit the loss of the waiver.

[The state Board of Education](#) has appointed a steering committee to oversee the development of a new set of standards by 2016.

EdGate Services

Does Your Content Meet all State Standard Requirements?

Did you know Common Core equates to 18% of standards coverage for ELA and Mathematics subjects only? All other subjects not included with CCSS and the states that did not adopt Common Core equates to 82% of standards coverage.

Since about 2011 when the Race to the Top initiative was first introduced, the Common Core Standards took a prominent position in the eyes of education agencies around the country. As various states announced their intention to adopt and eventually implement, it was natural for publishers of K-12 content to quickly respond by ensuring their materials would meet these standards through the process of correlation. As of today, 45 out of 51 states have adopted and implemented the Common Core with almost a 50/50 split on agencies which adopted verbatim vs. those who opted for 15% or more additions.

Throughout the last few years it has become abundantly clear, publishers whose focus were to align content solely to the Common Core were missing out on ***hundreds to thousands*** of state added standards to which students will also be assessed.

It is understandable that correlating to one set of standards makes it much easier for a publisher to correlate and manage their alignments internally. However, if you want to ensure your content meets ALL state standards applicable to your content and you do not have the time or resources available to cover all 51 states, please contact us today. We'll be happy to share how effectively and efficiently EdGate can meet your objectives.

For a list of all the standards available in our repository please visit our website at <http://correlation.edgate.com/standards/index.html>.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR EDGATE CLIENTS:

Common Core state-specific standards are now fully implemented and integrated into the U.S. Standards sets. If you are an existing EdGate client and have noticed that the Common Core state-specific standards are no longer listed in EXPERT, your CUI, or Bulk Download, it is because the standards are now reflected within and as part of the state's own standards. For those who have a CUI, we recommend posting a message for your end users to help alleviate any confusion when searching your correlations.

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Standards Update

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

- Danielson's Framework for Teaching - Professional Development (2013)
- Nebraska - Language Arts (2014)
- Nevada - World Languages (2014)
- New Jersey - Social Studies (2014)
- New York Alternate Assessment Standards (NYSSA) - Language Arts (2014)

- New York Alternate Assessment Standards (NYSSA) - Mathematics (2014)
- North Carolina - Social Studies New Courses Added (2014)
- West Virginia - Language Arts (2014)
- West Virginia - Mathematics (2014)

<http://twitter.com/EdGate>
<http://www.facebook.com>

Kristie McCarley

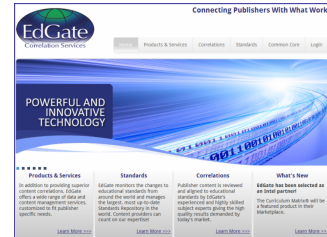
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About Us

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.



Stay Connected



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