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### Introduction

Welcome to the second edition of the *DataDirector*™ newsletter. The beginning of a new school year is always an exciting time! As summer draws to a close, we at Riverside Publishing are looking forward to starting the 2010-2011 school year off right.

We have been working diligently on several new enhancements to *DataDirector* to better meet your data and assessment management needs. We hope to help you and your students reach new levels of achievement by providing features such as new prebuilt reports, instructional links, and a new online testing engine, just to name a few. In addition to our regularly scheduled releases, the *DataDirector* team has been working with our content experts to plan for integration of the Common Core Standards in addition to state standards. In combination with extended professional development offerings, 2010-2011 looks to be a year full of changes and improved data and assessment management.



### What's New?

#### DataDirector Version 3.0 Enhancements

We are pleased to announce the following enhancements with the release of v3.0 on August 4, 2010.

#### New Online Testing Engine

- Customers will have access to a new, robust online testing engine with manipulatives to enhance the student experience (ie. strikethrough tools, highlighter, add/edit comments for use during testing).

#### New Permissions System

- The user permissions within *DataDirector* have been redesigned, providing users with greater flexibility in granting access to the various features of the system.

#### Support for Assess2Know Spanish Items

- Customers who subscribe to the *Assess2Know*® item bank are now able to include Spanish items on their exams. Users can also create their own local Spanish items.

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## RIVERSIDE PUBLISHING

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## Riverside Publishing introduces Assess2Know Common Core Standards Solutions

With the Common Core Standards adoption gaining approval across most states, educators are trying to understand how their existing curriculum, instructional practices, and assessment will be impacted. In anticipation of this need, Riverside Publishing is pleased to provide educators with several Common Core assessment options to meet their data and assessment needs. The information provided from these assessments will help educators determine areas of curriculum and instruction needed to improve student achievement.

The Common Core Standards address curricular concepts at a deeper level within a single grade level and limit grade ranges where concepts are covered. As a result, educators will need assessments structured in the same way. With this in mind, Riverside has developed three unique solutions -- Domain Specific Modular Assessment Forms, Common Core Standards Benchmark Assessment Forms, and the Common Core Standards Aligned Item Bank.

The Domain Specific Modular Assessment Forms will cover grades 2-8 and high school grades 9-12 for Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy. The forms will contain between 12 and 20 items with 3 parallel forms. The Common Core Standards Benchmark Assessment Forms consist of 3 forms with 50 to 65 items per form. Forms are available in Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy and cover grades 2-8 and 9-11 in high school.

The Common Core Standards Aligned Item Bank consists of a bank of items that have been hand aligned to the common core standards for grades 2-8 and 9-12 in high school. Each item includes item attributes such as cognitive difficulty levels, Bloom's Taxonomy, and Flesch-Kincaid levels for reading passages.

These flexible solutions will help fit your assessment and Response to Intervention (RTI) needs. Contact your Account Manager for additional details on how you can incorporate these solutions this fall.

What's New? Continued from Page 1

### New Reporting Option for Exam Reports

- Users now have the option to specify the set of standard alignments that display in exam reports. Users can choose to display state standards, national standards, or a combination of both. Additionally, once the Common Core standards are added, these will appear as an additional option for selection.

### New Item Creation Enhancements

- Users will have several new formatting options when creating items in *DataDirector*.

## State Analysis

### State Tests Recently Deployed

1. **California** – CST (STAR) 2009-2010
2. **Georgia** - CRCT Retake 2009-2010





## Tips and Best Practices

Planning for a year of data disaggregation, professional development, and data management can seem overwhelming. To assist you with your planning, we offer the following:

### Training Considerations:

- Are there new *DataDirector* implementation leads or school administrators that need to be trained?
- How and when will new teachers be trained?
- Will benchmark assessments be created or updated during the summer in order to align with pacing guides? If so, is training needed on creating tests, editing tests, or creating alignments?
- Would a *DataDirector* training on utilizing reports that is tied to your district initiatives be valuable for the staff? If so, your Account Manager can deliver such a training.

### User Maintenance Considerations:

- Do you have any new users? Create new district and school administrator accounts (Click **Admin Tools** and then **Add a User**).
- Have users changed sites? Assign new site affiliations to users who have added or transferred campuses (Click on the **Communication** tab and **Search for User**. Click **View Details** and **Edit Site Affiliations**).
- Do you need to update permissions? Review user permissions to see if any changes need to be made according to user type or role in the district (Click on the **Communication** tab and **Search for User**. Click **View Details** and **View and Edit User Permissions**).
- Do you need to disable user accounts? Deactivate district and school administrators who are no longer with the district (Click on the **Communication** tab and **Search for User**. **View Details** and click on **Deactivate this User**).

### Updating Your Districts Contact Information with *DataDirector*:

If your district training contacts, data leads, billing contacts, or other lead administrators have changed, please notify your *DataDirector* Account Manager so that we can update our records. We plan to provide newsletter updates, system updates, enhancements, and friendly reminders to our main contacts this year, so having the right information is important to us.

For any implementation, professional development, or training needs, please contact your *DataDirector* Account Manager. Finally, have a wonderful year!

## Announcements

Riverside is pleased to announce the addition of increased support available to all *DataDirector*<sup>™</sup> and *Edusoft* customers effective immediately. In an effort to expand services in the areas of technical and implementation support, we are excited to present the Technical Account Manager (TAM) position. Kristin Davis will assume the role of TAM immediately.

Kristin is not new to Riverside—in fact, she has been supporting *DataDirector* since 2007 as a Professional Development Specialist. In the Professional Development Specialist role, Kristin provided customer service, training and implementation management support. More recently, Kristin has been part of the Account Management team helping train new Account Managers and Account Executives on both *DataDirector* and *Edusoft*.

In this position, Kristin will be able to:

- Answer questions from all customers on minimum system requirements including operating system, browsers, network configurations, scanners, printers and software compatibility.
- Investigate deep level technical issues

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## Product Spotlight

### Creating Effective and Meaningful Assessments

Riverside Publishing recognizes schools and districts across the country are seeking professional development around building quality assessments. Because item and test development is the cornerstone of our business, we are offering these services to our school and district partners. Whether you currently utilize one of our item banks or your own district-created solution, our experts will utilize research-based information and materials to help your school or district evaluate and analyze its existing program during the following one-day professional development courses.

#### Building High Quality Assessments

In this course, participants will evaluate and understand the purpose of assessments, learn how to create a test blueprint that aligns to their curriculum map, and understand the principles of good assessment construction and universal design to create high-quality assessments.

Participants will learn answers to questions such as “What is the purpose for assessments?”, “Which assessment methods are most effective for assessing various standards?”, and “What is the process of planning an assessment?” This hands-on session will guide participants as they create their own assessment blueprints that they can use as a guideline for building future assessments

All materials and theories presented are based on highly recognized resources, including American Psychological Standards for Testing, guidance and research from American Institute for Research (AIR), and National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO).

#### Agenda:

- Purpose of assessment
- Formative assessment with *Assess2Know*<sup>®</sup>
- High-quality assessment design
- Cognitive difficulty levels
- Universal design and construction elements
- Assessment Blueprint Design
- Creating a test blueprint

**Please contact your Account Manager for additional information about these professional development options.**



#### Developing High Quality Item Banks

In this course, participants will understand the importance of utilizing high-quality assessment items—including assessing the intent of the measure, determining reliability and validity of items, and understanding why these components are so critical for student evaluation. This hands-on presentation will guide attendees through the process of writing quality items based on research-based item design elements, help them recognize quality items, and provide them with an understanding of how to develop an item writing process best suited for their district's needs. Additionally, participants will learn how to deconstruct state standards to understand what is being demanded of students and how best to create items to demonstrate proficiency of standards.

#### Agenda:

- Beginning the item writing process
- High-quality assessment design
- The components of a high-quality item
- Universal item design
- Assessment Blueprint Design
- Depth of knowledge and cognitive difficulty levels
- Reviewing and editing items

- Research scanning or scoring discrepancies
- Uncover performance latency issues with the system and scoring
- Assist with Scanner certification and troubleshooting scanner issues
- Gather and provide suggestions for best practices and internal client documentation
- Travel for on site customer visits to investigate and resolve technical issues

Kristin's charge will be to develop a strong working relationship with you, our customers, and help champion resolution on technical issues with the extended Riverside product management and development teams. Kristin can be reached via email at [kristin.davis@hmpub.com](mailto:kristin.davis@hmpub.com).

If you have additional questions on how Kristin can support your district, please contact your account manager. We are committed to the continued improvement of service to you and Kristin will certainly help us strive to meet this commitment.

## District Highlight:

# Lodi Unified School District



To close the achievement gap, Lodi, CA schools use *DataDirector* to track discipline, attendance, and a range of factors beyond academic scores.



"Our aim is closing the achievement gap," said Ed Eldridge, Testing and Evaluation Program Coordinator at Lodi Unified School District in central California. *DataDirector* online data and assessment management solution is an important tool in achieving that goal. Eldridge and his

colleagues use *DataDirector* to find commonalities in underperformance, then create programs that address the underlying causes of academic deficiencies.

What's innovative about Lodi's approach is that *DataDirector* tracks elements of student life that go far beyond academic performance, factors such as attendance, tardiness, and discipline problems. "We monitor trends that are causing a group to underperform, not just trends in the classroom," said Eldridge. Tracking data about all aspects of a student's life has encouraged everyone—teachers, counselors, even coaches—to find alternative methods of dealing with underachieving students.

Lodi's approach has proven highly effective. "Test scores have been going up every year," said Eldridge. After one year of *DataDirector*, AYP scores for Hispanic ELL students rose 3.5%. The following year, scores jumped 5.9%. "*DataDirector* helps our high performing groups to stay high performing, and our underperforming students catch up," said Eldridge.

### Coordinated student data

A child's whole life affects his or her performance in the classroom. Everyone knows it intuitively, but it's not always easy for schools to use that concept to improve learning. Teachers only have influence during the hours their students sit at their desks. Counselors often only get involved once problems have occurred. Traditionally, every educator plays a distinct role in a student's life, but those roles are often so distinct that it's difficult for educators to coordinate their efforts.

Lodi Unified School District is using *DataDirector* to help provide a more holistic approach to teaching and learning. Ed Eldridge and his team use *DataDirector* to track district benchmarks and high-stakes tests, but that's not all. They also use the system to collect a wide range of non-classroom data, including attendance, tardiness, suspensions and detentions, afterschool interventions, physical fitness records, AP scores, and counseling records.

To learn more about Lodi's Success with *DataDirector*, read the entire Lodi Success Story at [www.riversidepublishing.com](http://www.riversidepublishing.com).

# Coming Soon

Upcoming releases of *DataDirector* will include a variety of enhancements to better meet your needs, including the following:

- Users will have the ability to analyze student progress over time in a Longitudinal Prebuilt Report. Users can view the performance of an individual student or group of students on a state assessment over time in a graph.
- New demographic selection criteria will be added to reports to meet new Federal Race and Ethnicity reporting requirements.
- Users will have the option to import items into *DataDirector* using an industry standard QTI format. Please note that written permission will be required for import of any items from other publishers to help ensure that digital permissions exist for any items imported into *DataDirector*.
- Links to *netTrekker* will be available in Exam reports for districts using *DataDirector* who also subscribe to *netTrekker*.
- Users will have a suite of *DIBELS® NEXT* prebuilt reports to review student performance on the new *DIBELS® NEXT* assessment.

Further details and timelines for upcoming releases will be shared with you by your Account Manager as additional information becomes available. All release notes and Help documentation are posted within *DataDirector*. Simply click the **Help** link at the top of the page or on the version number at the bottom of the page to see the details of the most recent release.

We appreciate the opportunity to improve *DataDirector* so we can ensure it continues to meet your needs!

## FAQs

### How can I prepare exams for the 2010-2011 academic year?

We recommend all exams be duplicated for the upcoming academic year. If your district is using exams prebuilt by *DataDirector*, please send your requests to [info@achievedata.com](mailto:info@achievedata.com) to install the exams for you district. If your district is using benchmarks created by teachers and administrators within your district, these exams will need to be duplicated by the author.

### How do I know if the exams our district is using were created by *DataDirector*?

A full list of exams *DataDirector* has created can be found in the *DataDirector* **Help** link. After clicking this link, please select **Exams**. You will find our document labeled **Available Exams and Assessments**. Please fully review your exams, including ISBN numbers and copyright dates before requesting installation. If your district is utilizing publisher exams that are not on this list, and you would like to request them, please follow the instructions on the last page of the document.

### How do I duplicate exams I created?

After logging into *DataDirector*, please select the **Exams** tab. Next, select the check boxes to the right of all the exams you wish to duplicate. Scroll to the bottom of the page, and choose **Duplicate** in the drop down menu. If you will be creating reports using assessment data, select the checkbox to enable auto-export to assessment and click **Yes, please duplicate this exam**. Click **Yes, share my exam permission with the assessment**. Select your **Exams** tab again. You will notice all the exams you duplicated now have 'Duplicate of' in the title. Click the title. Next click **Basic Information**. You will need to change the title of your exam and the academic year, so it reads 2010-2011. Please remember, you will need to share these exams with all users for the new year. If you are sharing by affiliation, please wait until all rostering for the 2010-2011 academic year has been submitted to *DataDirector*.

# User Conferences

## Announcing the Riverside Publishing 2010 Fall User Conferences

We are pleased to announce three locations this fall where Riverside Publishing will be inviting *Edusoft* and *DataDirector* customers to come together and share best practices to help improve student achievement. This professional development opportunity is ideal for all levels of users for both systems. The agenda will be packed with presentations that range from hands-on reporting to sharing of ideas and tips that have worked for other educators. In order to accommodate our community of educators across the country, we will be hosting conferences in Atlanta, GA (October 19 & 20), Ontario, CA (November 2 & 3), and Dearborn, MI (November 9 & 10). Register today at [www.riversidepublishing.com/userconf](http://www.riversidepublishing.com/userconf).



Once you've registered, please consider becoming a presenter at the conference. Proposals to present information will be available at [www.riversidepublishing.com/present](http://www.riversidepublishing.com/present) coming soon.

## Introducing the Key to Standards-Based Instruction... **instruct 4 success™**

- Delivers focused, standards-based math tools for classroom use for grades 3–8 and high school.
- Translates curriculum standards into instructional strategies and daily activities.
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