


INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2011 Fall edition of the *Edusoft* Assessment Management System newsletter! We have created this newsletter in order to provide you with the latest updates on product enhancements, best practices for success, and achievements accomplished by our *Edusoft* customers.

As your partner in education, Riverside is looking forward to working with you to ensure your school year is a success. We value you as customers and appreciate your continued use of *Edusoft*. 



Edusoft STATISTICS

September Scans
Through the Years

YEAR	NO. OF SCANS
2007	2,404,768
2008	2,762,697
2009	3,461,565
2010	3,587,022
2011	3,119,570

WHAT'S NEW?

What's New in *Edusoft 5.5.0*

Welcome to the *Edusoft Assessment Management System, Version 5.5.0*.

In this release we are announcing the following:

Assess2Know Item Bank Permissions

- *Assess2Know* customers now have the ability to permit access to the A2K Benchmark item banks in Teacher Tools. This will allow greater flexibility for districts that want to grant teachers access to benchmark items.
- *Assess2Know* customers now also have the ability to permit access to the A2K Classroom item bank in Benchmark Exams.
- For more information, please contact your Account Manager.



FAQs

1. Password Reset:

If you have an email address on file, you can reset your password by using only your user name. Go to the Admin tab, click on the Settings link, and enter your email address in the box provided. Then when you reset your password, the new password will come directly to the email address you have specified without you having to take time to contact Software Support.

2. Edusoft Library:

If you have any questions on how to use *Edusoft*, please visit the *Edusoft Library*, which is the online knowledge base loaded with "how to's" for *Edusoft* functionalities and tasks.



STATE ANALYSIS

State Tests Recently Deployed

1. California – CAHSEE July 2011-12
2. Oklahoma – OCCT 2010-11
3. Oklahoma – EOI Spr/Sum 2010-11
4. Mississippi – MCT2 2010-11
5. Mississippi – SATP 2010-11

State Tests Available in October

1. California – CELDT 2011-12
2. Nevada – HSPE July 2010-10
3. Nevada – HSPE Writing July 2010-11
4. Georgia – EOCT Spr/Sum 2010-11
5. Georgia – GHSGT Sum 2010-11

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Santa Barbara Jr. High

Sophisticated benchmarking, assessment and PLCs supported by Edusoft data have helped Santa Barbara Junior High achieve huge gains in student success.

When the yearly Academic Performance Index (API) scores were made public in September 2010, several schools in Santa Barbara, California saw remarkable gains. Among these achievers, one school stood out. Santa Barbara Junior High realized a 50-point increase. This incredible rise is the result of a new educational culture based on increased accountability made possible by the *Edusoft Assessment Management System*.

“We moved toward a very heavy implementation of an Edusoft-based plan,” said Principal John Becchio. The plan has three main

components. First, benchmark tests are administered every two weeks. Second, students who perform poorly are given additional opportunities to learn the material, then retested bi-weekly until they master it. And third, classrooms are frequently monitored by the principal, assistant principal and instructional coach.

Santa Barbara Junior High had a clear plan for academic improvement. But Becchio is quick to point out that the school achieved success not simply because it had a plan; it made

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CONTENT CORNER

Coming Soon: Distractor Rationales

The latest addition to the *Assess2Know* Benchmark item bank!

In order to have the greatest impact on student achievement, assessment must provide educators with information about what a student knows and what additional instruction or intervention the student needs in order to achieve desired learning outcomes. Riverside has taken the next step in providing Distractor Rationales to support the link between assessment and classroom instruction for our *Assess2Know* customers. At this time, 90% of our *Assess2Know* Benchmark multiple choice items already have distractor rationales available in Excel format. In addition, we are writing rationales to complete the remaining 10% so that every item in the *Assess2Know* Benchmark Item Bank will have a distractor rationale available to support instruction.

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DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

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great strides because that plan was carefully monitored. "With monitoring systems in place, we closed the gap between knowing what we should do and actually doing it," said Becchio. *Edusoft* helps Santa Barbara Junior High keep its programs on track.

Educators use class time to look at

Edusoft reports together. "The teachers print progress reports for kids," said

Becchio. They discuss the standards that students mastered as well as those they had difficulty with. "The *Edusoft* reports are nice-looking and they list the standards very clearly," said Becchio.


Today at Santa Barbara Junior High, *Edusoft* is used universally and

nearly constantly. "Teachers like it because it's helped us make huge gains," said Becchio. One teacher named *Edusoft* when asked to state his favorite thing about teaching at Santa Barbara Junior High. "We have a scanner in the work room," said Simmons, "Whether I walk by at 7:30 AM or at 4:30 PM, I see someone sitting at the computer doing something with *Edusoft*."

"Teachers tell me, "I can't imagine life without *Edusoft*."

--John Becchio, Principal

"The culture here has shifted. Most teachers here consider *Edusoft*

something we need to use, not something someone else wants us to use," said Becchio. Simmons added, "Teachers tell me, "I can't imagine life without *Edusoft*." 

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For decades, Riverside has followed best practice in the development of multiple-choice items. Continuing this tradition, *Assess2Know* distractors have been designed primarily to draw students away from the correct answer if they do not truly know the right answer. A high-quality item should have distractors that represent common errors that a student might make, as well as rationales that assist with instruction and remediation for those students who do not answer an item correctly. Riverside is pleased to offer *Assess2Know* Benchmark customers this additional information in order to support school and student success.

For information about Excel reports for distractor rationales that are available now, please contact your Account Manager.

FALL USER CONFERENCE

Riverside 2011 Fall User Conference

Announcing the Riverside 2011 Fall User Conference

Riverside 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 of the 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, we will be hosting the conference in the following location on the following dates:

**– December 8-9 –
San Mateo/San Francisco, CA**

For more information on dates, location, and registration, please visit www.riversidepublishing.com/userconference.



PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Instructional Resources Aligned to Your State Standards

Riverside offers the option to enhance your *Edusoft* experience with *netTrekker*[®], giving you a more effective and efficient way to conduct data-driven instruction. *netTrekker* connects you with educationally relevant content aligned to state standards—offering the best digital resources available to help you plan, teach, and achieve more effectively. A unique set of personalized learning tools makes the content effective for every learner.

Riverside offers links to *netTrekker* as an option for its *Edusoft Assessment Management System*. Score and review test results online, then automatically access *netTrekker*'s standards-aligned resources

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TIPS & BEST PRACTICES

Riverside strives to exceed your expectations by creating quality assessment tools. We have created the following tips and best practices to help guide you as you create new items for your students.

What size font should I use? Most *Edusoft* users use the 10-point font that is defaulted in *Edusoft*.

How should my text be justified? We recommend that text be left-justified; however, it is possible to center-justify and right align text in *Edusoft*. Using right- or center-justifications may help differentiate special text (like lists and bullet points) from the rest of the question.

Can I write my questions in another program (e.g., Microsoft Word) and then copy-paste into *Edusoft*?

Copy-pasting directly from a Word document may introduce characters that could cause your items to render improperly in PDF format. If you prefer to copy and paste your text, we recommend saving your document as a plain text document (file extension .txt) and then copy-pasting into *Edusoft*.

Can I use font types like boldface, underlining, and italicization?

Certainly! *Edusoft* has a formatting toolbar that allows you to emphasize words or phrases as needed. Simply highlight the text you would like to format and then click the button in the toolbar. Using the toolbar is the best way to format your text in *Edusoft*.

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PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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through the *Edusoft* platforms to provide targeted and prescriptive instruction to improve student performance.

Make the 'Next Steps' for student assessment easier than ever.

For more information about how *netTrekker* works with *DataDirector* and *Edusoft*, contact your Account Manager or Riverside Customer Service at 800.323.9540.



TIPS & BEST PRACTICES

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I have an image I would like to use in my item. What image file type can I upload and how big should the image be?

Edusoft supports JPEG images. JPEG images are the most common images for storing and transmitting images on the Web. *Edusoft* recommends uploading images with a maximum width of 2.95 inches for inclusion in an item.

How big should my image be if I'm creating a passage? We recommend a maximum height of 8.25 inches and a maximum width of 5.2 inches. Larger images may interfere with the margins set in *Edusoft* and may be unable to render on a single page.

What justification should I use for my images? We recommend that images in a passage be center-

justified. Images uploaded as part of an item should be left-justified.

Can I use a table to format my text? *Edusoft* currently does not support the use of table creation. We recommend creating the table in another program and then saving the table as an image (.jpg) file.

How can I enter equations and mathematical symbols? *Edusoft* supports the use of LaTeX symbols. LaTeX enables you to enter scientific and mathematical symbols using a combination of keystrokes available on your keyboard. A help guide is available in the *Edusoft* Library.

Must all of my items be multiple-choice? In addition to multiple-choice items, *Edusoft* supports constructed response and short answer item types.

