

## In This Issue:

What's New in <i>Edusoft</i>	1
Tips and Best Practices	1
Content Corner	2
Coming Soon	2
Product Spotlight	3
FAQs	4
System Requirements Update	4
State Analysis	4

### Tips and Best Practices

#### How To Change Your User Name

Do you wish you had another user name in *Edusoft*? To change your *Edusoft* user name, go to the Admin tab, select Settings, and select the Change Your User Name link. Enter your desired user name in the text box and select the Continue button. Please note, you cannot enter a user name already in use by another *Edusoft* user.

## Leadership Summit: Making Assessment Meaningful in Lean Funding Times

The second annual Riverside Publishing Leadership Summit, held June 15, 16, and 17 in Chicago, Illinois, brought together 82 customers and 18 partners who energetically embraced the theme of the summit— **Making Assessment Meaningful in Lean Funding Times**.

The Leadership Summit seminars focused on obtaining student data and interpreting and applying the data to enhance instruction. During the seminar "*Saving Time and Money with Edusoft® (Formative Platform): Getting More for Less!*", one district shared its success with using the *Edusoft Assessment Management System* while saving thousands of dollars each year. The three day summit culminated with a key note presentation by Dr. Michael White entitled "*I Know – I Think – I Do*," a presentation tying together key learnings from the summit.

Attendees seized opportunities for networking, learning, and sharing best practices for utilizing data and assessment management systems from their peers. Feedback indicated attendees were re-energized and eager to share what they learned with their districts. Riverside is anxious to hear about the application of these learnings and we encourage you to attend the Leadership Summit next year.

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## What's New in Edusoft 4.4.3



Welcome to the ***Edusoft Assessment Management System, Version 4.4.3***. In this release we are announcing the following:

### Mass Unlock Feature

- With this feature, district administrators have the ability to unlock accounts in mass, instead of one at a time. This will be useful at the start of the school year when large numbers of users are unable to log in due to account inactivity.
- The feature is found in the Admin tab under Settings. Select the link "Unlock accounts locked due to inactivity" to unlock all district accounts that have been locked due to inactivity.

*Continued on page 2*

# What's New in Edusoft 4.4.3



Continued from page 1

## Item Analysis Report Permission

- Through a new permission, school administrators and teachers are able to run district-wide Item Analysis reports from the Benchmark Exams tab, which allows for viewing item level performance across the district.
- Building and classroom level educators are able to examine their students' performance relative to others' in the district at the item level and better facilitate data team discussions and the sharing of best practices for instruction.
- Users need to contact Customer Support or their district's permissions administrator to have the permission granted.

not align before may align to the revised standards.

The following revised state standard sets have been realigned to the *Assess2Know* item bank and are available now:

- Washington Standards for Mathematics, 2008
- Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Reading, 2008
- Georgia Performance Standards for Social Studies, 2008
- Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Science and Social Studies, 2008
- Tennessee State Performance Indicators for Reading, Mathematics, and Science, 2008
- Oklahoma Priority Academic Student Skills for Science, 2008

## Content Corner

Riverside is continually expanding the content within the *Assess2Know* item banks by developing additional items aligned to the four content areas. In order to ensure the quality of the *Assess2Know* item banks, Riverside watches for standard changes in each state and then updates *Assess2Know* content to meet the new standards as quickly as possible.

When standards are revised, Riverside monitors the state's progress until standards receive final State Board approval. Once that happens, Riverside secures the revised standard set and begins the process of realigning the item bank. State documents are used to understand the depth and breadth of each standard, the cognitive rigor of the standard, as well as utilization of any crosswalk documents provided by the State. All items are aligned by hand to ensure a tight, multi-dimensional alignment.

Once the item bank has been realigned, it is evaluated to determine if any gaps might exist in coverage due to the revised standards. Often the bank size will change because some items may no longer align to the new standard set, while items that did

Additionally, Riverside is in the process of expanding reading, math, and science content by adding over 1,000 items to the *Assess2Know* item bank. The new items will be available this fall and will include new passages for American literature at the high school level.

For information specific to your state, please contact your Account Manager.

## Coming Soon...

### Virtual Training Videos

To compliment our *Edusoft* Training Sessions, Riverside is currently developing a series of online training videos. This addition to the *Edusoft* Library will not only compliment live training sessions, but also addresses financial concerns to meet the needs of districts during these lean times. These short training videos will cover a broad range of topics from *Edusoft* 101 to Scanning and Grading.

We look forward to sharing these videos this fall.



## Product Spotlight



**IOWA ALGEBRA  
APTITUDE TEST™**  
FIFTH EDITION



### IAAT Answer Documents in Edusoft

More and more educational policy makers have been calling for algebra instruction at the elementary level because it acts as a foundation for all future mathematical study. Despite this greater focus in developing algebraic thinking skills in elementary schools, educators still recognize that Algebra I classes generally have very high student failure rates.



To help reduce failure rates, Riverside publishes the *Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test™ (IAAT™)*, Fifth Edition, to help identify students who are ready for algebra. Developed at the University of Iowa by Drs. Harold L. Schoen and Timothy N. Ansley, the *IAAT* reflects the same best practices in assessment and psychometric design as The Iowa Tests™. The assessment

was developed through extensive item tryouts, put through bias and sensitivity reviews, and is aligned to the latest NCTM standards.

To increase the value of this product, Riverside recently enabled *IAAT* answer documents in *Edusoft*. *Edusoft* customers can now administer *IAAT* using the reusable test booklets, then quickly scan answer sheets into *Edusoft*, and instantly get students' raw scores and percent correct. By selecting a cut score for their students, educators can determine which students are ready to begin algebra coursework in a fraction of the time.

**To learn more about *IAAT*, visit [www.riversidepublishing.com](http://www.riversidepublishing.com).**

### *Edusoft®* and netTrekker – Working Together to Provide a Total Solution for Formative Assessment and Remediation

Riverside has teamed with netTrekker to answer the inevitable question that arises from assessment – what now? Once an area of deficiency is identified, how do you help students and classes improve their performance?

Combining *Edusoft* with supporting standards-aligned digital resources for remediation from netTrekker closes the gap between assessment and prescription, as well as improves classroom instruction and student performance.

#### **netTrekker features include:**

- Over 300,000 educator-selected digital resources organized by grade, readability level, and many other refinement criteria
- Resources aligned to each state's standards
- Customized ELL content and dictionary/translation hot key
- Read aloud feature that reads text to students
- 21st Century Skills Channel with engaging digital resources for life skills, learning and innovation, and ICT literacy
- Safe, school-friendly image search
- Weekly Reader Express in digital format delivered through netTrekker
- My Portfolio easily saves and scaffolds resources into folders that can be shared with students, the school, or the entire district

*Continued on page 4*

## FAQs from Software Support

**Question: When I log into the system, I receive a message stating: "You are not currently enrolled to any locations."**

**Answer:** If you see this error when logging in, it means you are not enrolled in any schools for the current school year. Please contact your school or district *Edusoft* site administrator to update your enrollment information.

**Question: I am now working at another school within my district. How do I see my new school's information in *Edusoft*?**

**Answer:** If you have changed from being a user at school A to being a user at school B, your profile will need to be updated. Please contact your school or district *Edusoft* site administrator to update your enrollment information. This will allow you to see the information for your new school.

**Question: I forgot my password. How do I have it reset?**

**Answer:** If you have forgotten your password, the quickest way to have your password reset is to visit [www.edusoft.com](http://www.edusoft.com). Click the "Reset your password" link on the homepage and enter your user name. A temporary four-digit password will be sent to the email account on file for that user name.

## State Analysis

### State Tests Recently Deployed

1. California - STAR 2008-09
2. Texas - TAKS-Modified 2007-08 and 2008-09
3. Georgia - CRCT-GPS Spring/Retest 2008-09
4. Nevada - CRT 2008-09

### State Tests Available in September 2009

1. Colorado - CSAP 2008-09
2. Oklahoma - EOI Winter/Spring 2008-09
3. Nevada - HSPE May Retest 2008-09

## Minimum System Requirements Update

Riverside is pleased to announce support for the following products with *Edusoft* starting September 2, 2009:

- Internet Explorer 8 (for Windows XP and Vista)
- Adobe Acrobat 9.1 (for Windows XP, Vista and Mac)
- Brother DCP-8080DN

Support for Mac OS 10.5 Leopard and Safari 3 for Mac will be available at a later time.

Providing our customers with accurate scoring and reporting through *Edusoft* is important to Riverside. To help ensure answer sheets are scanned accurately, we have updated our minimum system requirements to include more up-to-date software and equipment. As a result, we are phasing out support for the following products:

- Windows 2000 OS
- Brother MFC-8420
- Brother DCP-8045D

Starting September 2, 2009, Riverside will no longer be supporting Windows 2000. As for the two Brother scanners, we are recommending the replacement of these models with a newer Brother scanner and are notifying you in advance so you may plan accordingly.

## *Edusoft* and netTrekker

*Continued from page 3*

**Benefits this integrated solution provides educators:**

- Single sign-on through *Edusoft*
- Links directly from assessment results in *Edusoft* to appropriate, standards-aligned netTrekker resources for remediation
- Enables differentiated instruction to meet every student's needs
- Organize, manage and save resources in My Portfolio while fostering collaboration with students and other teachers
- Less time spent searching and more time teaching, learning, and achieving

For information about how to subscribe to netTrekker, contact your *Edusoft* Account Manager or netTrekker Customer Support at 877-517-1125.