May - October Functionality Releases 2014

General

- Enhanced security for password log in settings is now available for a District by contacting the Thinkgate Support Desk.
- Edwin Analytics reports can be accessed from within Edwin Teaching & Learning using the Edwin Analytics tile in Reporting.
- The Thinkgate Platform is now compatible with the following browsers:
  - Internet Explorer - versions 9, 10, and 11
  - Chrome – latest version (37)
  - Firefox – latest version (32)
  - Safari – latest version (7)
- The Thinkgate Platform is now compatible with the following operating systems:
  - IOS – versions 4, 5, and 6
  - Mac OS – versions 10.6, 10.7, and 10.8
  - Windows – versions 7 and 8
  - Google Chromebook OS – version 35 or later

Planning

- Competency list can be created and tracked on the Competency List tile. A competency list is a list of standards that students are measured against and expected to master.
- CVTE Competency worksheets are used to track the performance of standards as well as credentials. See Create a Competency Worksheet in the Reference Center for directions on creation and use of worksheets. Worksheets can be created by a CVTE teacher under the Classes menu option.

Instruction

- Assessments can be associated to Instructional material from the Association Tool bar. This new feature allows assessments available to the user to be associated to Lesson plans, Unit plans, and Curriculum maps
- Resource Expanded search screen now provides the option for searching the Learning Registry to locate digital content aligned to standards to be used by teachers to assist in their teaching.
- A new review process for instructional materials/resources enables users to rate and review the quality of lesson plans, unit plans, curriculum maps, state model curriculum, and resources they currently have access to within ET&L.
- Users can now search for instructional materials/resources based on the quality of its rating. The process allows for comments, a five star rating (1 = lowest, 5 = highest), and suggestions for the appropriate special populations, age, and grade level. See the “Peer Review Process – Instruction” reference guide in the Reference Center for more details.
- Additional resource types are now included in Resource Search Criteria Tags. For example, Creator, Publisher, Usage Rights, etc.
- Tags Association screen is updated to include the following components:
• Educational Alignment
• Learning Resource Type
• Educational Use
• End User
• Media Type
• Interactivity Type

• Instructional material with specific license/rights or usage time limits can be displayed to authorized users. Users are only able to view materials up to the Expiration Date.

**Assessment**

• New search capabilities for Items, Addendums and Rubric that contain Expiration date on the expanded search screen. When an item contains an Expiration Date and the item’s date has expired, then the item will no longer be available to the user.

• Users can now add Tags to items as the item is created via the editor. New Tags search criteria can be found in both the Item and the Assessment expanded search criteria.

• Item Statistics tile will display any Original Item statistics that are provided by the owner/vendor for the items. This tile can be found when searching for an item and selecting the expand icon.

• Performance and Observational assessments can be created for District and Classroom use. This allows for a teacher to make comments while observing a student performing a task. Students will have the ability to upload documents for tasks they have performed.

• Administrators and Teachers can set time limits for online assessments for all students, individual classes, or selected students within a class. Adjustments can be made for those same groups to set time extensions, or time expiration warnings. See the “OTC Timed Assessments” reference guide in the Reference Center for more details.

• Users can view and print the distribution of items based on taxonomy levels within a specified item bank. Item Banks display based on how items are distributed among taxonomy levels. See the “View and Print Item Bank Taxonomy” reference guide in the Reference Center for more details.

• A new peer review process for assessment items is now available. The process allows for comments, a five star rating (1 = lowest, 5 = highest), and suggestions for the appropriate special populations, age, and grade level. See the “Peer Review Process – Items” reference guide in the Reference Center for more details.

• Students can see their scores after taking an assessment online. This functionality is available by assessment category and can be activated for District or Classroom assessments. Contact Thinkgate Support to have this functionality setup.

**Linking**

• Teachers have the ability to create Groups of students for assessment administration. The Grouping feature is currently only available for teachers. Should your district wish to add this new functionality, please contact Thinkgate Support.

**Reporting**
• CVTE Teachers will see a new tile, Advanced Reporting that will contain the Competency Tracking Portal. In Phase 1, only CVTE teachers have the ability to view a student’s competencies on standards.

• Teachers can filter reports by a Group the teacher has created. Only one Group at a time can be displayed in Reporting. This feature is only available for districts with Linking functionality.

• Edwin Analytics reports can be accessed from the new tile Edwin Analytics. Three reports are available at this time.
  o PE521 Course Three Year Performance Trend
  o CU522 Classroom MCAS Results
  o IT523 Student MCAS Item Analysis

Other
• New password security settings can be assigned to a user’s password creation. Districts need to contact Thinkgate Support to require the new security settings. The following options can be set as requirements for a user password:
  o Upper or lower case
  o Special characters
  o Numbers