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Edwin

A. General:

A1. What is Edwin?
Edwin is the new comprehensive Massachusetts teaching and learning platform, designed to provide state educators integrated information and tools that are aligned to state curriculum frameworks and assessments. The system supports educators and fosters continual improvement of teaching and learning at every level – classroom, school, district, and state - by providing on-demand access to a wide range of tools, resources, and reports so educators can continue to provide high levels of student achievement and help reduce persistent achievement gaps among the state’s most- and least-advantaged student groups.

Edwin will deliver its rich tools, reports and resources through two separate applications, Edwin Teaching and Learning (T&L) and Edwin Analytics, both accessible through a single sign-on process on the security portal. Edwin Teaching and Learning will offer curriculum planning tools, model curriculum units, online instructional resources, and a variety of assessment tools and reports, all aligned to the current Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, which include the Common Core Standards. Edwin Analytics is a vehicle for reporting student, educator and program data that spans multiple years and connects across education agencies: Early Education and Care (EEC), Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) and Department of Higher Education (DHE). For more information on each component, see the respective sections of this FAQ.

A2. What does ‘Edwin’ stand for?
Edwin is the name of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (ESE’s) new teaching and learning platform. The name Edwin conveys ESE’s goals of providing accessible tools to help educators and students “win”. Edwin is not an acronym.

A3. When will Edwin be available?
Edwin reports and features will roll out at different times throughout 2012 and 2013. Estimated timelines for specific reports and functions will vary between Edwin Analytics and Edwin Teaching and Learning. Please review the “When will the Edwin Analytics System be available to Massachusetts school districts?” section of this FAQ for more information. This information will also be available on the Edwin website: http://www.doe.mass.edu/edwin/.

A4. How can I get regular updates on Edwin?
The Edwin team will periodically update the Edwin website to provide helpful information and progress updates with Edwin Analytics and Edwin Teaching and Learning. We encourage users to periodically visit the Edwin website (http://www.doe.mass.edu/edwin/) to stay informed. We also invite you to follow Edwin on Twitter – @Edwin_DESE – to get the latest news and information related to Edwin. Please follow Edwin on Twitter: @Edwin_DESE.
Edwin Teaching and Learning

A. General:

A1. What is the Edwin Teaching and Learning System?
Edwin Teaching and Learning will deliver an integrated suite of tools for educators developed under the Massachusetts Race to the Top (RTTT) grant. It includes:

- Online tools and resources to support curriculum and assessment in the classroom that are aligned to current Massachusetts curriculum frameworks.
- Student information for current and prior years.
- Information to support classroom, school-and district-wide planning, and decision making.

B. Access and Support:

B1. How will I access Edwin Teaching and Learning?
Edwin Teaching and Learning will be available to educators in participating districts through ESE’s portal through a single sign-on. This means that when educators in participating districts sign in at the ESE portal they will also be logged into Edwin Teaching and Learning.

C. Curriculum:

C1. Will Edwin Teaching and Learning be aligned to the Massachusetts Frameworks and the Common Core Standards?
Yes! All Edwin tools and resources will be aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, which include the Common Core Standards. Edwin will include all of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, including Vocational/Technical Education frameworks.

C2. Will Edwin Teaching and Learning be available to Vocational/Technical Education programs and educators?
Yes. Edwin Teaching and Learning is intended to serve Career/Vocational Technical Education (CVTE) programs and educators and will include CVTE curriculum frameworks.

C3. What kind of curriculum tools will Edwin Teaching and Learning provide?
Edwin Teaching and Learning will provide tools to create standards-based lesson plans, curriculum units, as well as other curriculum resources. These tools can be used to create new curriculum materials. They can also be used to edit Model Curriculum Units developed by ESE in conjunction with Massachusetts educators. Lesson plans and curriculum units created using Edwin Teaching and Learning will all be aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, which include the Common Core Standards.

C4. Will Edwin Teaching and Learning provide any digital instructional materials?
Edwin Teaching and Learning will provide the ability to search for and use digital resources from third-party resources such as WGBH, now a part of PBS Learning Media, as well as resources from other quality providers. Publishers of this content will have aligned their materials to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, which include the Common Core Standards.
Standards. Using Edwin Teaching and Learning, these resources can be incorporated into lesson plans, curriculum units, and assessments, as well as being used in other forms of instruction.

D. Test Items and Assessments:

D1. Will Edwin Teaching and Learning have a tool to create test items?
Yes, Edwin Teaching and Learning will have a tool to create test items that are aligned to the Massachusetts Frameworks, including the Common Core Standards.

D2. Will Edwin Teaching and Learning offer any test items available for me to use in creating assessments?
Yes, Edwin Teaching and Learning will provide access to previously released MCAS questions. These questions can be incorporated into assessments created in Edwin Teaching and Learning.

D3. Will Edwin Teaching and Learning provide a way to create and administer assessments?
Yes, Edwin Teaching and Learning will provide a flexible tool to create standards-based assessments that can be delivered online or on paper. Assessments created in Edwin Teaching and Learning can include previously released MCAS items, which will be available through Edwin, items you create, or a combination of both.

Edwin Teaching and Learning: Availability and Rollout

A. General:

A1. Will Edwin Teaching and Learning be available to all Massachusetts districts?
Edwin Teaching and Learning will initially be implemented through the Race to the Top (RTTT) grant. This means that it will first be available to Massachusetts school districts that are participating in RTTT and have chosen to participate in the Teaching and Learning System. Edwin Teaching and Learning can also be made available to other Massachusetts districts following the grant period. To find out whether your district is participating in RTTT T&L, contact either the RTTT coordinator for your district, or email: Edwin@doe.mass.edu.

A2. When will the Edwin Teaching and Learning System be available to Massachusetts school districts?
Following the pilot period during the 2012-2013 school year, the system will be rolled out to additional school districts. The plan is to reach a total of 46 districts by June 2013, and all 171 RTTT districts by June 2014.

B. Pilots:

B1. Will there be a pilot for Edwin Teaching and Learning?
Yes, a pilot with approximately 12 school districts is planned to take place during the 2012-2013 school year.
B2. My school district is participating in the RTTT grant, but is not currently working on project 5A, the Teaching and Learning System. Is it possible for us to sign up now?

If your school district is participating in RTTT, but is not currently committed to Project 5A (Teaching and Learning System), you may need to amend your fund code 201 RTTT grant. Please contact Rob O'Donnell at rodonnell@doe.mass.edu to learn more about this.

C. Pricing:

C1. Is there a cost for Edwin Teaching and Learning?

Massachusetts school districts that are participating in the RTTT and have chosen to participate in the Teaching and Learning System can use Edwin Teaching and Learning at no cost throughout the RTTT period. The RTTT grant runs through August 2014. We are also exploring ways to cover the cost of Edwin Teaching and Learning after August 2014.

Edwin Teaching and Learning: Model Curriculum Units

A. General:

A1. What are Model Curriculum Units?

Model Curriculum Units (MCUs) are curricular units of study that ESE has developed as exemplars to promote effective instruction to improve student learning. The units are aligned to state standards in the Massachusetts frameworks for Mathematics, English Language Arts, History & Social Studies, and Science & Technology/Engineering content. Each unit includes the essential components of the Understanding by Design framework, which highlights clear goals and outcomes, performance assessments to elicit evidence of learning, and learning experiences and plans to achieve those goals. Units include a variety of resources and provide districts and teachers with high quality and rigorous units they can choose to teach and/or use to advance their own curriculum development efforts.

Model Curriculum Units will be available to participating districts through Edwin Teaching and Learning, where the units can be viewed, printed and copied. While the original Model Units will remain as is, educators may edit copies of the MCUs to meet the needs of their students. Districts not participating in Edwin Teaching and Learning will have access to the Model Units through the ESE website.

A2. What is the purpose of Model Curriculum Units?

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) is committed to supporting Massachusetts districts in the effective implementation of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, which include the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Model Curriculum Units are being provided as exemplars to help districts transition to and meet the demands of the Frameworks.
A3. **Are districts mandated to use Model Curriculum Units?**

No, districts are not required to use Model Curriculum Units; however, districts are encouraged to use the units. Districts can use them in three ways:

- Use the Model Units as written.
- Revise the Model Units to best fit the needs of their students.
- Use the Model units as exemplars for the development of additional curriculum units.

The Edwin Teaching and Learning system can be used to edit the Model Units and also to create new curriculum units.

A4. **Who developed the Model Curriculum Units (MCUs)?**

Educators representing over 60 districts across the Commonwealth worked for two years to plan and develop the initial group of Model Curriculum Units. By the end of the 2013-14 school year, 100 MCUs will be available through the Edwin Teaching and Learning System and also through the ESE website.

B. **Access and Support:**

B1. **How do I access Model Curriculum units?**

Initially, Model Curriculum Units (MCUs) can be accessed only by participating RTTT Districts. Primary access to the MCUs will be through Edwin Teaching & Learning (T&L). Using Edwin Teaching and Learning, districts can either use the MCUs as written, or modify them to meet their needs. For those districts not participating in Edwin Teaching and Learning, downloads of MCU documents will be available through the ESE website. MCUs are being developed and rolled out on an ongoing basis, with 100 units being made available by the end of the 2013-14 school year.

B2. **Where can I find more information about Model Curriculum Units?**

More information about Model Curriculum Units is available at:

[http://www.doe.mass.edu/candi/model/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/candi/model/)

C. **Curriculum:**

C1. **For which content areas are there Model Curriculum Units?**

There are model units for ELA, History/ Social Science, Mathematics, Science, and Engineering/Technology. There will also be a Model Unit for Culinary Arts.

C2. **Are the model units aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks?**

Yes. All units are aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, which include the Common Core Standards.

C3. **How many model units will be available?**

Model Curriculum Units will be released on a rolling basis, with 100 planned for release by the end of the 2013-14 school year.
C4. Did curriculum design team members receive training prior to developing the units? Yes, design team members have attended professional development in *Understanding by Design, Universal Design for Learning*, and developing performance assessments. These professional development events were conducted by national and regional experts during the Model Curriculum working sessions.

C5. Can districts/teachers adapt Model Curriculum Units (MCUs) to meet the needs of their students or do they need to use the units as presented? Districts and educators can either use the Model Units as presented or adapt the units to meet the needs of their students. Participating districts can use Edwin Teaching and Learning to both access and edit MCUs.

**Revision History**

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<th>Version</th>
<th>Date of Change</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td></td>
<td>• Updated TOC and changed headers.</td>
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