Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L)
Questions and Answers from the ET&L Webinars

Pilot, Implementation and Rollout
1. I am a Race to the Top district. I understand that the pilot will begin in March, but when will I be able to log into Edwin and access this freely?

Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) will be available for 34 districts to pilot through June 2013. If your district is participating in RTTT and has selected one of the Teaching and Learning Projects 5A-E, your district is eligible to implement ET&L during the June 2013 to March 2014 timeframe.

In order to take full advantage of ET&L, implementation of the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) is a pre-requisite. Additionally there should be staff identified who will serve as the “local experts” for the district ET&L administration. Interested districts can have their Student Information System (SIS) coordinator work with their ESE contact to plan for the SIF process. To plan for the ET&L implementation, districts can email Edwin@doe.mass.edu.

2. How soon after we implement the system will we be able to import student and staff information? Able to start creating district assessments in Edwin?

As soon as a district implements Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L), district staff will be able to create assessments. During the pilot, student, teacher and course information will be initially...
available for participating districts using their certified data provided to the state, which will not be refreshed. After the pilot, this information will be moved from the district into ET&L through SIF allowing for “near real time” updates of the teacher, student, and course information.

3. You indicated that RTTT districts have to implement EDWIN by SY2013-2014 and then later in the presentation it was indicated that participation in EDWIN is voluntary. Can you please clarify this?

Participation in Edwin T&L is voluntary; districts are not required to use Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L). For those Race To The Top (RTTT) districts that elected to participate in ET&L, the plan is to complete district implementation by March 2014 and no later than August 2014, which is the end of the RTTT grant period.

4. What is the timeline for the vocational competency tracking system to become active? Will there be separate VTCTS training?

Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) includes capabilities for tracking vocational competencies and some additional Career Vocational Technical Education (CVTE) capabilities will be added during Summer 2013. Separate training for CVTE districts is not planned at this time, but during the ET&L pilot period, an evaluation will be conducted to see if specific training may be beneficial to CVTE districts.

5. How do districts that are not part of the Race To The Top gain access to this program?

Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) is being implemented under the Race To The Top (RTTT) grant, and as a result, the system will be implemented first in those districts that signed up for RTTT and Teaching and Learning. ET&L will be made available to non-RTTT districts after the grant period.

6. Is the vision for Edwin to be a potential replacement for tools such as “It’s learning,” Moodle, and others?

It is true that districts currently use several stand-alone systems to meet their individual teaching and learning requirements. Using a number of stand-alone tools, each with its own login, creates an ongoing struggle to collect all relevant data in one place to facilitate timely decision-making. In addition, there is the constant need to do more with less.

The Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) vision is to provide a cost effective, integrated solution using a single sign-on to access curriculum and assessment tools and resources, all aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks to assist educators in their daily instruction. Although there is no prescription as to how districts may use the ET&L suite of tools, many districts will find that ET&L meets most, if not all of their needs, thereby allowing districts to reconsider the need for other stand-alone tools. Doing this will enable districts to experience cost savings and as a result, possible reallocation of resources.
Cost

1. If we are involved in the pilot just referenced, will this affect the cost in future years?
   No, pilot participation does not affect future cost. The State is using Race To The Top (RTTT) grant money to pay the cost for all participating RTTT pilot districts during the grant period.

2. Who is going to cover the subscription costs?
   The State will cover subscription costs during the Race To The Top (RTTT) grant period for RTTT districts. The State is also exploring ways to extend funding for district subscriptions beyond the RTTT grant period.

3. What is the projected cost to Districts?
   The Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) contract was procured jointly with the State of Ohio. One reason for the joint procurement was to obtain more favorable pricing. The negotiated post-Race To The Top (RTTT) cost for ET&L is based on a per-student subscription model. The price per student will be determined according to the number of participating students. As more districts in Ohio and Massachusetts subscribe to ET&L, the per-student cost will decrease.

   At that time, the number of students in participating districts (across both MA and OH) will be tallied and the total number of students in these districts will be used to identify the relevant pricing tier for the following school year. For example, the first post-RTTT school year will be SY 2014-15. Districts intending to use ET&L in SY 2014-15 should indicate this to ESE by the end of December 2014.

   Once the pricing level is calculated, it will be announced statewide to help districts with their budget calculations in a timely manner. The following table shows some possible pricing scenarios depending on the combined Oh and MA student participation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of Students OH + MA</th>
<th>Price/student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>775,000</td>
<td>$5.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>$5.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>$3.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>$3.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,250,000</td>
<td>$2.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,799,995</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   Please note, districts that require integrations with third-party content providers or assessment vendors will need to work directly with Thinkgate, as the State will not be coordinating those integrations.
Assessment Tools

1. **Can assessments be created that are administered on a larger scale (i.e. grade-wide ELA or Math) based on a set of standards that we choose?**

   Yes, school- or district-based personnel can create common (interim) assessments to be administered on a larger scale to an entire grade within or across schools, based on the particular standards districts choose.

2. **What subjects can be assessed besides ELA and Math?**

   During the early stages of the pilot, only the Common Core Standards for ELA (English Language Arts) and Math will be loaded into Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L). By Summer 2013, the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for all subjects - including the standards for Career Vocational Technical Education (CVTE) – will be available and accessible in the system.

3. **Can we create assessments for all grades, including K and 1?**

   Assessments can be created for all grades, including Kindergarten and Grade 1. Because MCAS is not administered in these grades, there will be no MCAS items available for these grades. Teachers and districts can create their own items and can also use items the district subscribes to/purchases from a third-party Vendor.

4. **When teachers create assessments, are they linked to the national common core standards and can they be linked to the specific state version of the common core standards?**

   The Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks include the Common Core Standards published by the CCSSO/NGA, as well as additional state standards in ELA (English Language Arts), Math and other subject areas. Assessments and assessment items can be linked to multiple standards as needed.

5. **Are assessments that are posted for use, put through any type of criteria for quality assurance?**

   Users within each district (administrators and teachers) can create their own assessments. ESE will provide guidance for vetting assessments according to quality guidelines. Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) provides several reports related to test and item performance – such as a report on item analysis – that can be used to support the vetting process.

6. **If the district creates an assessment to be given to a grade level, can the assessment be hidden until the day it is administered so that teachers do not get access and try to teach to that assessment or coach students in the answers?**

   Yes. All district assessments have security parameters that allow administrators to select when the test can be administered, when the test can be printed, and whether/when the content (items) can be accessed when conducting data analysis. District assessments can only be
accessed during the designated administration period. Various proctoring settings are available in Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) for test administration purposes.

7. **Can you add video to the assessments?**
   Yes, a variety of media can be added to assessments, including video.

8. **How are teacher-created items vetted against Standards?**
   Teachers have the ability to align assessment items to standards as they are creating the item. Districts can support the vetting process for their district. ESE will also provide guidance for vetting items and assessments and teachers can employ this advice in item creation.

9. **Do kindergarten and first grade assessment items still have four answer choices, or have they been reduced to three?**
   Any item created can have a different number of options depending on the type of item.

10. **Can the font size be changed in assessments?**
    Yes, font size can be modified, and text can be underlined and bolded.

11. **An evolution of this would be for the state to create some formative assessments that schools could administer to then be able to compare how our students are doing with a broader base of schools.**
    Currently ESE is planning to provide schools and districts with research-based guidance for developing a range of locally grown assessments. In that role, ESE will provide helpful supports to educators developing assessments in Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L). While ESE has no formal plans at this time to provide sample assessments, there are some future plans to work directly with ET&L users to vet promising assessments for use across MA school districts.

12. **You mention Understanding by Design for Curriculum Unit development, what resources do you recommend for use in developing assessments?**
    ESE will provide online guidance materials to support educators in developing, administering, scoring, and evaluating assessments.

13. **Will there be any psychometric tools available within this system to support valid and reliable assessments?**
    Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) will allow users to generate a number of reports that will yield information about item and test quality. Guidance materials are in development to assist educators in developing assessments that will yield stable and valid results for a variety of assessment purposes.

    While the development of reports will be ongoing through the pilot and rollout periods, there are reports currently available to support educators who conduct item-level analysis to examine distractors and item difficulty. Additional reports planned will include an examination of test
reliability (test stability). Guidance materials are in development to assist educators in
developing assessments that will yield stable and valid results for a variety of assessment
purposes.

Assessment Administration

1. Are the assessments administered online or given paper and pencil?

Assessments can be administered in three primary ways: 1) paper and pencil through the use of
bubble sheets that the teachers can print themselves; 2) online; or 3) with numerous hand-held
response units (clickers). Assessments can also be administered on paper (non-bubble sheets),
or conducted via teacher observation, and the results of these assessments can be input
manually into Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L).

2. How are assessment results entered into the system?

The method for entering assessment results into Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) varies
depending on the method of administration. Assessments taken with bubble sheets may be
scanned. Assessments taken on paper (non-bubble sheets) would require manual input.

3. What clickers does Thinkgate interface with?

As of Spring 2013, Thinkgate’s software solution interfaces with clickers from E-Instruction,
Renaissance Learning, Promethean, Smart, Turning Technologies, and continues to add
interfaces for other clicker manufacturers. Since this is an evolving list, more information about
which specific ones are currently supported, is posted on the Edwin Teaching and Learning
(ET&L) website http://www.doe.mass.edu/edwin/tls/.

4. Is there an app for students to use phones as a clicker device

Students can utilize certain aspects of Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) on various tablets
and smartphones. However, this is done directly through the web-browser on the device, rather
than through an application.

5. How do teachers and districts scan bubble sheets? Is a special type of scanner required?

Bubble sheets can be printed on regular plain paper printers and copiers. Bubble sheets can be
scanned using any scanner that utilizes TWAIN drivers. A current list of compatible scanners is
posted on the Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) website
http://www.doe.mass.edu/edwin/tls/.

Assessment Items

1. Can changes be made to the assessment items?

Yes, Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) allows users to edit and save assessment items,
including changing answer options, correct options, the related standard(s), scoring rubrics,
associated graphics and many other options.
2. Is it possible to create assessments for grades K-2 items? Are there assessment items for non-tested subjects as well (e.g. social studies) in gr. 3-12?

It is possible to create and administer assessments for any grade and subject across K-12. The only assessment items provided by ESE will be previously released MCAS items. As a result, there will be no pre-loaded items for non-tested grades or subjects from the MCAS exams. Additional items for all grades and subjects can also be added to Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) through: a) local development of new items, b) local import of district-owned items, c) the import of third-party items, and d) cross-district sharing of locally developed and vetted assessment items and assessments. ESE is exploring options for importing additional item and assessment content into ET&L and will update users if additional material becomes available.

3. Is there an item bank that is used to create assessments?

ESE will be providing previously released MCAS questions for use in Edwin T&L. These items will be tagged to the current Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and can be used to create assessments in Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L). Items made available from other sources can also be used in ET&L when creating assessments.

4. Will previous MCAS items for STE and HSS be available?

Yes. ESE is in the process of tagging MCAS items and questions in STE and HSS will be available in Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L).

5. Are there Common Core questions for standards K - 12, across all content areas?

Users can create items for any grade and subject. ESE will be providing previously released MCAS items for those grades and subjects covered by MCAS, which are tagged to the current Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks (in ELA and Math, these items are aligned to the Common Core standards).

6. Are MCAS items the only test bank we will have access to as we develop our own common assessments that align to our standards?

Previously released MCAS items will be available in Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) for use by Massachusetts districts. Districts may also access online item banks that a district may have purchased/licensed to use in ET&L. There are plans for ET&L to support a user-vetted assessment item bank in which educators from across Massachusetts can contribute locally developed items.

7. Would we need to negotiate licensing issues with text publishers who have accompanying assessments?

If your district has (or would like to have) access to online assessments and/or assessment items, the district would need to find out from that publisher what the options are for using those items in other software. Thinkgate’s software has the ability to access items from other
publishers and to protect them so those items are only available to users from the licensing district.

8. **Is there a mechanism to align assessment results from other third party assessment tools already in use or from locally developed tools? For Example can we import DIBELS assessment data or data from other systems? (Most of our assessments are already created and administered in other systems.)**

Yes. There will be ways to align results from third-party assessment tools (such as DIBELS assessments) in Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L). A mechanism will be available to import assessment results from other systems. Assessment results that are aligned to the current Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks can be used in standards-level reports. (Assessments results that are not aligned to the current Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks will have more limited reporting options since ET&L is standards-based.)

9. **Just wondering about the use of MCAS questions when we may be moving to PARCC testing?**

Currently, the plan is to populate Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) with previously released MCAS items that have been tagged to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. ESE continues to seek out additional sources of high-quality items for use in ET&L and will pursue the use of released PARCC items once that testing system is in operation.

**Reporting**

1. **Are there ways to aggregate data by groups of items within a test?**
   
   It is possible to aggregate reporting of items within an assessment, based upon the standards associated with the items. Currently, there is no other grouping of items within an assessment.

2. **Is there a breakdown by item and standard?**

   Yes. Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) includes a variety of reports, including reports by item and standard.

3. **Can you see how each student answered each question? Can you also see the question content?**

   Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) includes a wide array of reports that break down data quickly and effectively for teachers, enabling them to differentiate their instruction appropriately. Authorized educators can see the question content on the report by clicking on the question number link at the top of each column. This information can also be viewed by individual student.

4. **Will the data reset each year, or can we compare one year to the next?**

   Data is stored each year and can be compared from one year to the next. Although Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) is not meant to be a LDS (Longitudinal Data System), there are some multi-year reporting capabilities that will be available. Edwin Analytics has been developed with LDS reporting capabilities and is intended specifically for that role.
5. Can we add reports to the Advanced Reporting Tile?

Yes, reports can be added to the Advanced Reporting Tile through the Report Builder.

6. Does the Edwin Teaching and Learning "At Risk" report conflict with ESE EWIS definition of "At Risk"?

The "At Risk" report and the Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS) reports do not conflict; they use different data sources and identify different types of risk.

The "At Risk" report in Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) is based on formative/interim assessment data in ET&L and identifies students who are "at risk" based on performance on particular academic standard(s). This report can be useful in monitoring how a student is doing in terms of mastering relevant standards. Districts can set the number of levels they want to report on as well as the targets for these levels. For example, a district can designate 3 performance levels, such as <70% = failing (at risk), 70% - 85% = satisfactory, and >85% = exceeding (mastery). In this example a standard that is assessed where a student scores below a 70% would be identified on the “At Risk” report.

EWIS is part of Edwin Analytics and is based on data collected by ESE statewide. The EWIS risk levels report students’ likelihood of making or missing key academic outcomes along the grade 1-12 trajectory (P/A on 3rd grade ELA MCAS, P/A on 6th grade ELA and math MCAS, passing all 9th grade courses, and high school graduation). The EWIS reports provide a transitional (summative) indicator – it is calculated over the summer based on the entire previous school year – for use by school and district educators at the beginning of the next school year. For more information about the EWIS, please visit: http://www.doe.mass.edu/edwin/analytics/.

Curriculum Frameworks/Standards

1. Will the Massachusetts CVTE Frameworks be included in this package?

Yes, Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) will include the new Massachusetts Career Vocational Technical Education (CVTE) frameworks, which are being updated during Winter 2013. Once the new CVTE standards are finalized, they will be available in ET&L.

2. Will all Massachusetts Standards be loaded into this system?

Yes. All current Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks (including the Common Core Standards) will be available in Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L).

Curriculum Tools

1. Can unit plans be imported from Atlas to avoid the massive work entailed in the transfer?

Plans created in other systems can be imported into Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) as Word or .pdf files. There are additional possibilities for importing curriculum units and plans, which are being investigated.
2. **Who enters the data for the unit plans? Is that at the local level?**

Yes, Districts can create their own unit plans in Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L).

ESE will provide Model Curriculum Units (MCU) through ET&L. These MCUs can be used as is, or units can be copied and modified. Districts may choose to create and/or import additional units. The content for units must be entered locally.

3. **Will the system include any templates? Can districts personalize templates for teachers to use when they create new plans?**

Yes. There will be a lesson planning template and an ‘Understanding By Design’ template, as well as some sample templates for creating Curriculum Embedded Performance Assessments. Districts may also add their own templates.

4. **Under Curriculum Units, if you do not have four terms but three instead, can that be adjusted?**

Yes. Each district has the option of designating the number of terms.

5. **Is there a way that I will be able to see and edit an entire unit plan with lessons - maybe 40 pages or so - in one document?**

Yes. Units created in Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) can include a variety of content and can be as long as needed. Units can include and incorporate lesson plans, web-based resources, and other documents and files.

The hierarchical structure in the Curriculum Unit allows a user to create and edit any stand-alone documents, meaning a user can find a specific unit or a lesson in ET&L and modify it directly. A user is also able to access a unit and view the Lesson Plans embedded in that unit. Simply expand or collapse those units in the lesson plan to modify any of the content directly on the screen. (This includes the Associations toolbar, with the schedules, the standards, and other tagging options, as well as the content within the template itself.)

6. **Can districts distribute content to grade-level teachers and departments?**

Yes.

7. **Can things like curriculum maps and the pacing of units be changed at the teacher level? Can they be viewed at the district level?**

Curriculum and instructional items could be changed at the teacher level if the district wants to open that capability to teachers. These can also be viewed at the district level.
8. Do the created and shared lesson plans only get shared with our district or with everyone using Edwin?

Lesson plans (and other resources) are only shared if the person who creates the lesson plan wishes to share it. If shared, the resources created can be shared with specific users within the district.

One enhancement scheduled for Summer 2013 is the addition of a workflow process tool. This process will allow users to submit resources created for review, approval and sharing by a larger group of Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) users.

9. How is this suite of curriculum development tools different / better than what is available through Rubicon Atlas curriculum management software?

Districts will be able to evaluate Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) and how well it meets their needs. The benefit to educators is having both curriculum and assessment tools in one integrated solution, and available through a single sign-on, as is the case with ET&L. Additionally, 100 State-vetted Model Curriculum Units will also be made available through ET&L for district use.

10. Will this system allow us to drop Atlas?

Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) is an integrated system that contains a variety of curriculum planning and assessment tools. It will contain MCAS released items aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks as well as Model Curriculum Units which have been vetted by the State. Districts that participate in RTTT will be able to evaluate whether they need to continue using their existing stand-alone curriculum and assessment tools.

Model Curriculum Units (MCUs) and Other Resources

1. Will ESE be loading the curriculum units they are working on?

Yes. ESE will make Model Curriculum Units (MCUs) available in Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L).

2. When will the model units be available?

Four MCUs are available during the pilot, with additional units to be loaded in the coming months. By the end of the RTTT grant period, ESE plans to have all 100 MCUs available.

3. Do the Model Units show differentiation options?

Yes. The units contain varying degrees of differentiation options.

4. Are the teachers and administrators who are writing the curriculum units based in Massachusetts or elsewhere?

The MCUs are being developed by State and local educators from across Massachusetts.
5. **Does the teacher have a standalone catalog of the Resources and their associations with lesson plans?**

Teachers will have a bank of resources. What will go into this bank will include resources created by the teacher, those made available by the district, and potentially those shared by other teachers. If teachers create their own resources, they will be able to access those and add certain associations with their own Lesson Plan.

6. **Will we need to open YouTube for all teachers and students?**

YouTube is not necessary to use Edwin T&L. Districts control the web content that their teachers and students may access.

Note that free, standards-aligned educational content from WGBH/PBS Learning Media will be searchable from within Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L). This content can be used in curriculum and assessments educators create in ET&L.

7. **Along with lesson plans can teachers add resources like audio and video files?**

There are a variety of resource and file types, including audio, video, and pdf, among others, that can be used in Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L). Districts will establish the specific permissions regarding who can add these kinds of resources. Free standards-aligned WGBH/PBS Learning Media content will also be searchable from within ET&L to be used in the curriculum and assessments educators create.

8. **Can we modify graphics?**

Graphic images cannot be edited in Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L). However, images can be replaced or edited using other software the district may have.

9. **Do the web links all go to free content?**

Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) has the ability to search for web-based content. Web links displayed during the demo relate to free content. It is up to each user to use only that web content which the user has rights to view. In addition to free content, districts that subscribed to fee-based content licensed through third-party providers/publishers will be able to link to those materials as well.

10. **Will the Resources be automatically maintained and scrubbed so as to stay accurate and active?**

Districts are in control of the content – including resources – that staff uses within Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L). Resources will be reviewed or maintained based upon the process that each district establishes.

11. **Will Edwin make textbooks redundant?**
Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) does not provide textbook content, so it is unlikely that it could replace textbooks.

Rosters, IDs and Data

1. Who assigns courses to teachers? Are courses assigned to a group or to individuals?
   Teachers are assigned to classes based on the student information system (SIS) data maintained by your district. Each class is associated with a course. Thus, teachers are associated with courses based on their classes.

2. Who submits all the data in the classroom carousels?
   This data comes from the student information system (SIS) for each district. The only exceptions are the optional student pictures, which can be loaded manually or through a bulk upload process.

3. How do student pictures and info get into the system? Will this align with our SMS?
   Because photos are not part of the information provided by districts through SIF, they must be sent/generated separately from other student information. Photos can be imported into Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) through a bulk upload using the file format specified by Thinkgate. If a district maintains student photos as part of its Student Management System (SMS), these will need to be output to the specified file format before they can be uploaded into ET&L.

4. Will the system use the SASID or the local student ID?
   Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) will use the LASID.

5. Does the system store MEPIDs for teachers?
   Yes, Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) will store MEPIDs. Teachers will log into ET&L through the ESE Portal, which will use the Identity Management System integrated with district systems.

6. How is class information for a teacher placed into Edwin Teaching and Learning? Is it via SIF?
   Yes, districts will provide the teacher, student and course data for Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) via the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) to ESE.

7. Does SIF need to be in place to use Edwin Teaching and Learning?
   Districts will implement SIF, (the Schools Interoperability Framework), as a way to provide student, teacher and course data to ESE. Once SIF is in place, student, teacher and course data will automatically be communicated to ESE on a near real-time basis; this information will then be used in Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L), providing educators access to the most updated information available. All districts that have signed up to use ET&L during Race To The Top (RTTT), have also signed up to implement SIF.

During the pilot (Winter-Spring 2013), there will be a one-time data load to bring district data into ET&L. This will be the data the pilot districts submitted to ESE for the October 2012 data collection. The limitation of this process will be that changes in student, teacher, and course
information that have occurred since October will not be reflected in this data. While pilot users have expressed a preference to have access to real-time data during the pilot, the decision to use this approach for the pilot was made so that districts would have the earliest possible chance to access ET&L, rather than having to wait for district SIF implementations to be completed.

8. **What is the expected timeline for implementing SIF updating to keep the data near real time?**

Race To The Top (RTTT) districts that have signed up for Project 3A will be implementing SIF between Spring 2013 and Summer 2014. For more information about SIF implementation, please have the person responsible for the Student Information System in your district get in touch with their ESE Data Collection contact.

9. **This is an assessment question, but is there a way for us to track the vocational competencies in our Student Management System (SMS) and have the data pulled out through SIF?**

Vocational competency information is not currently planned to be included in the data that will be moved from districts to ESE using the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF). However, there are plans to collect vocational competency information from the legacy VTCTS for use in Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L).

**Software, Platform, User Interface, Icons**

1. **Are you building this software from scratch or basing it on something you have already created and used with other districts?**

The Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) software was originally developed by Thinkgate in 2004. It has evolved since that time based on client feedback and requests. Currently there are over 170 districts using Thinkgate’s solution, which is also being used statewide in the NC CVTE department. This software will be implemented in Massachusetts and Ohio, with customizations and integrations specific to each state in order to meet full requirements for the states.

2. **In the standard Identification tile what does the pencil represent? Does that mean it is editable?**

The pencil icon means you can edit an item or content. Editing capability is available based upon the tile content and the user role.

3. **Is there a way that administrators can see teacher pacing-tiles?**

Yes. Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) allows administrators to see Teacher Pacing Tiles.

4. **Is there a plan for an iOS or tablet version of Edwin?**

There is not a version that is specifically for a tablet; however the entire application will work on an iPad through the Safari browser. The screens were designed to work on a tablet and have been tested on iPads. This includes the online assessment capabilities, so students can use iPads to take online assessments.
Training

1. Will there be training materials available for use in rolling this initiative out to stakeholders in our district? Will there be "train-the-trainer" sessions we can attend?

The training model for Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) is a “train-the-trainer” approach in which three staff from each district will be trained to become the “local experts”. Pilot districts are being trained using a face-to-face model. The State and Thinkgate are exploring options for a blended approach to training. The blended model may include a face-to-face component, as well as conference calls and online training capabilities. This model is expected to provide more flexibility in terms of scheduling, and less travel for districts. Thinkgate University, the online professional learning system within ET&L consists of interactive training modules, reference guides and video vignettes, which will be available to all ET&L users.

PD and LMS Capabilities

1. Did the RFP include an option for Districts to purchase the LMS functionality should we want/need a tool for course pages that can be accessed by students?

The Request For Proposal (RFP) did not include any provisions for a Learning Management System (LMS). While it is not currently supported in Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L), it is Thinkgate’s plan to extend the functions of the software to support LMS capabilities for student online courses. It is also important to note, that it is possible to link to external LMS system content using the resource library features within ET&L.

2. Can a district load other PD content into Thinkgate or is it only PD on Edwin T&L?

Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) will only load Professional Development (PD) content related to ET&L. Additional PD content requires an additional license from Thinkgate not included with ET&L. While it is Thinkgate’s plan to extend the functions of the software to support Learning Management System (LMS) capabilities for student online course material in addition to educator PD content, this capability is not currently supported. It is possible to link to external LMS content using the resource library features within ET&L.

Login and Security

1. Will the system tie into LEA domains for identity management of staff and students or will it require the management of a new set of IDs and passwords?

The identity management for Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) will be integrated with ESE’s single sign-on and integrated with district systems. Users will login using ESE’s Portal to gain role-based access to ET&L as well as other ESE systems

During the pilot, users will login using Thinkgate’s portal until the integration between Thinkgate and ESE’s identity management systems are integrated.

2. How do districts that are not RTTT gain access to this program at this time?
Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L) is being implemented under Massachusetts’ Race To The Top (RTTT) grant, and will be implemented in RTTT districts first. Once RTTT ends, ET&L will be available to non-RTTT districts. In the meantime, non-RTTT districts that are interested in implementing ET&L may want to work on their SIF implementation so they can proceed with using ET&L fully once they gain access.

3. **Does each student need his/her own personal login? Who manages that process of assigning logins – the LEAs or Thinkgate?**
   Each student must have a unique ID for accessing Edwin Teaching and Learning (ET&L). Most districts choose to use the district’s local student ID (LASID), which is the current plan for ET&L. If districts prefer to have Thinkgate assign student IDs for ET&L, this can also be arranged.

4. **Who decides what/how much access a user has to available resources?**
   User access is based upon the role that is designated by each district. For example, a user that is designated as a teacher by their district will be granted access based on this role, and building or district-level administrators will have access that spans their school or district (respectively).