

STAAR Product Enhancements – Data Collection & Assessment

Ignite! Learning maintains a unique market-leading reputation for continuously and rapidly enhancing our products and services based on the needs of our school district partners. Ignite! proactively pursues this commitment through expert understanding of the 5 over-arching priorities for our digital content solution: standards, curriculum, instruction, assessment and data collection. Our record of innovation across any number of content-centric features from standards, to curriculum and instructional alignments, to technological ease, utility and flexibility are being complemented with innovative advances in data collection and assessment to further support customers.

Ignite!'s new releases for Data Collection & Assessment will be similarly as engaging and innovative as our interactive media. The Assessment as built will fit the needs of teachers to be able gauge individual students' knowledge and skills through a variety of rigorous, engaging assessment opportunities, while ensuring they are prepared for the very real and high-pressure demand of high stakes testing without being overly-reliant on the high stakes test format/construct to the detriment of profound learning.

The Assessments will provide teachers with data on individual students addressing all major concepts and specific knowledge and skills standards of the content area. Ignite! Learning's largest audience is Texas, which will be implementing the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) beginning in the 2011-2012 school year. STAAR is proving to be of great concern to Texas teachers and Ignite! Learning will be fully responsive to teachers' immediate needs with a market leading resource covering this concern. As Texas school districts will be seeking instructional tools to assist teachers with meeting the increased level of rigor of the STAAR assessment, Ignite! has a unique opportunity to enhance and expand upon current products and services to better meet the needs of our Texas districts and the new demands/content/context of the STAAR test. Therefore, the new Data Collection Assessment will include augmenting the current media Authentic Assessments with facile, real-time data on curriculum-based knowledge and skills, creating new Summative Assessments for each Unit, and developing meta-assessments that cross unit/curriculum content areas in a holistic, rigorous assessment tool that provides an "end-of-course" type assessment of the major concepts and knowledge and skills in a particular discipline. The new Ignite! Assessment solution will be creative and pragmatic, engaging and dynamic, and responsive to three separate teacher needs:

1. the need to fairly evaluate students,
2. the need for "authentic" and engaging assessment tools that align to the rigor of the content, and
3. the need to prepare students for high-stakes testing without being overly-reliant on the high stakes test format/construct to the detriment of profound learning.

Contact

Toll Free (866) 464-4648
Local (512) 697-7000
E-Mail sales@ignitelearning.com
Website <http://www.ignitelearning.com/>



The specific features that will be available for our Texas customers and in service of the many concerns of pressing demands of STAAR will be:

- **Rubrics for current open-ended assessments:** Rubrics will be created for the current open-ended assessments to allow teachers an array of factors with which to evaluate submitted student material. This will be for the Unit Challenges in Science and Social Studies, the print material for Science and Social Studies, and the print and media F.L.I.P.S. in Math.
- **Correlating assessment items:** All current Quiz! items will be correlated by standard, so that teachers can see student mastery of content and process skills. Assessment items will be written with process skills in mind and tagged accordingly, so that students are assessed on both documented content standards and process standards. The new Summative Assessments (below) will also be correlated by process standard.
- **Summative Assessment:** As the current Unit Tests are anthologies of the Quiz! questions and the Quiz! questions have been folded purposely into the Topics, new Summative Assessments will be written for each Unit to assess the concepts, knowledge and skills taught in each unit. They will include multiple-choice questions, griddable response items, and offer optional open response rubric-based questions. The content and rigor of these tests will be aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, and the context and format of these assessments will be informed by research on quality student performance-based assessment and the style of the new STAAR test items. Each question item can be catalogued by content and skill with each response feeding back to the teacher, so teachers can see how individual students are understanding particular concepts. While multiple-choice and griddable assessment items provide immediate scoring through the Ignite! interface, the optional open-ended response questions will require a level of teacher support for evaluation based upon provided assessment rubrics. These design parameters will provide quality assessment models that are inclusive of the STAAR test content/context, ensure responsiveness to current teacher concerns relative to the increased demand of the STAAR test, and provide multi-faceted data collection to teachers for instructional decision-making such as curricular next steps planning, response to intervention, communicating progress to parents and other stakeholders, and engaging students in their learning processes.

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