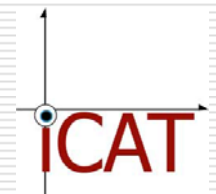


ICAT:

A Vertical Alignment Tool



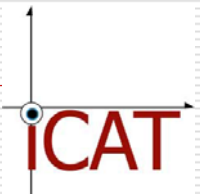
Karen Najera
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iCAT

Informed Curriculum Alignment Tool

A Region 10 developed product that can aide districts in aligning their curriculum as well as provide a valuable resource for teachers



What is iCAT?

- Web-based product developed by Region 10
- Created as a Vertical Alignment Tool
 - Scope and Sequence
 - Curriculum Guide
 - Teacher Resource

What information does iCAT include?

- All TEKS for...
 - ELA – Kinder through English IV
 - Math – Kinder through Pre-Calculus
 - Social Studies – Kinder through Gov/Eco
 - Science – Kinder through Physics

Let's Talk TEKS...

- Aligned to TAKS
- It's the law
- Aligned to textbooks (somewhat)
- Some are very specific (know these dates; write for various purposes including to inform, persuade, entertain)

Let's Talk TEKS...

- Some Vague
- Some Ambiguous
- Written in terms some teachers may not understand (orthographic pattern?)
- Some leave content wide open for selection

What information does iCAT include?

- Clarifications of each Student Expectation
 - List of examples
 - Define terms more specifically
 - Clear up vagueness and ambiguity

Example of Clarification

- K.07A: describe one object in relation to another using informal language
- Clarification: Use terms such as over, under, above, and below.

What information does iCAT include?

- Performance Descriptor for each Student Expectation
 - Suggestions for assessment
 - Address necessary level of sophistication and rigor
 - Aligned to TAKS tests from 2003, 2004 and 2006

Example of Performance Descriptor

- K.01A: use one-to-one correspondence and language to describe relative sizes of sets of concrete objects

- Performance Descriptor: Given two small cups of pasta, cubes, beans, etc. students will pour objects out and line sets side by side. They verbally describe their sets. "I have two more pebbles than you." "We have the same number of cubes." "You have one less bean than I do."

Example of Performance Descriptor

- 5.03A: use addition and subtraction to solve problems involving whole numbers and decimals

- Performance Descriptor: Students will be able to use less than and more than terminology from a worded problem to apply subtraction and addition processes to solve (Carrie has 300 coins. She has 125 more than Mike and 50 fewer than Sara. How many coins does Mike have?) (TAKS 04).

Example of Performance Descriptor

- 8.12A: select the appropriate measure of central tendency to describe a set of data for a particular purpose
- Performance Descriptor: Students will be able to choose the correct measure of central tendency for given real-world situations such as determining the most popular color of vehicle sold from a frequency table or the measure which would assist a store in making a week's worth of sales appear the most profitable (TAKS 03 ,04).

What information does iCAT include?

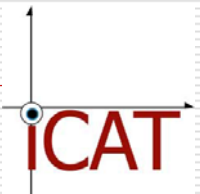
- Shells (some customizable) for local additions:
 - Grading Period/Benchmark Date
 - Activities/Lessons/Instructional Strategies/Resources
 - Modifications ESL/Special Ed/GT
 - Local Student Expectations
 - Unit Planner
 - Ability to bundle TEKS

What can iCAT do?

- ❑ Vertical Alignment
- ❑ Horizontal Alignment
- ❑ Searchable using common vocabulary (concept, skill or process)
 - Find gaps
 - Find late starts
- ❑ Create scope and sequence
- ❑ Lesson Planning Feature

Vertical Alignment with iCAT

- ❑ Technology based = ease of search and sort
- ❑ Objectives, S.E.s, and assessments aligned to high stakes assessments *and* across grade levels *and* cross-referenced by skills, concepts, and processes
- ❑ Finding and filling in gaps
- ❑ Builds common vocabulary
- ❑ Escalates expectations with regard to rigor and sophistication
- ❑ Redundancies clarified, specific examples given, terms defined
- ❑ Performance descriptors that “inform” the TEKS



Additional Features

- ❑ Suggested Scope and Sequence for each subject area and grade level (still customizable by a district)
- ❑ Curriculum shells for adding additional subject areas (pre-loaded with TEKS/SE's) for district use

Additional Features

- English Language Proficiency Standards for all Student Expectations (ELPS)
 - Applied to all Math TEKS 3- Geometry and all tested Science TEKS 3 - Chemistry
 - Performance Descriptors written for each of the Proficiency Level Descriptors (from TOP): beginner, intermediate, advanced which include examples (“such as” statements)

Pricing

□ In Region

- \$2500 subscription fee (includes training)
- \$5 per teacher for Lesson Planning feature

□ Out of Region

- \$3500 subscription fee (includes training)
- \$7.50 per teacher for Lesson Planning

Contact Information

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