

Introduction

According to the College and Career Ready standards, students are expected to be able to solve complex problems and explain their thinking. In addition, they must read, comprehend, and evaluate complex texts. These expectations allow for a significant shift in the way students have been traditionally taught. To support teachers and students in achieving these challenging expectations, Classworks provides Individualized Instruction driven by assessment data. The data is used to determine students' readiness to learn. Then, Classworks assigns skill-based units focused on strengthening the skills students need to accelerate learning.

We currently partner with a number of well-regarded assessment companies including:

- ACT Aspire reading, English, and mathematics
- NWEA MAP reading, language usage, and mathematics
- Renaissance Learning STAR reading and mathematics
- Scantron Performance Series reading, language, mathematics
- Classworks Universal Screener reading and mathematics
- Classworks Benchmark reading and mathematics
- Texas STAAR

Each alignment is specifically designed using the structure and data of the assessment.

Alignment Process

The first step of our alignment process is to review the structure of the assessment as well as the data educators are provided in order to determine the best way to align instruction. While simply aligning appropriate content to the skills provided by the assessment seems like a best practice; additional factors are accounted for to create a positive learning experience. Classworks considers the reporting categories (domains), the granularity of data, and the frequency of the assessment when determining the size of the individualized learning paths (ILPs). Often assessments break out their reports by domains. Using this information, the curriculum team aligns Classworks instructional units to the tested skills.

Classworks units support current education standards. Instruction addresses the skill and complexity of items used to in the assessment. The curriculum team takes into account the size and length of assignments, allowing time for students to work in each reporting category. A student needs exposure to all of the skills addressed in the assessment to be successful. They also need an assignment that is manageable in length so they aren't overwhelmed.

Once the assessment scores are imported into Classworks, educators make decisions regarding which students need instruction and in which domains. They can easily make informed decisions based on each student's specific results. This leverages technology to meet the challenge of identifying, assigning,

managing, and monitoring individual student progress without taxing teachers or over assessing students.

Alignment Blueprint

- Review assessment (with collaboration from partner)
 - Proprietary skills or state standards
 - Frequency
 - Reporting information
 - Cut scores
- Determine the appropriate amount of instruction
 - 27- 40 units per subject
 - 6-8 units per domain for every 6 weeks of instruction
- Align content
 - Use assessment information, state standard alignment
 - Review content during alignment

Alignment Outcomes

The Individualized Learning Paths help students catch up, keep up, and get ahead. In order to be most effective, students need time to work in all identified domains. Hence, assignment size is an essential consideration when creating ILPs. Students should be able to complete them in a designated time frame.

Assessment data provides insight into which skills students have mastered and which need more attention. Many of our assessment partners recommend students are tested three times a year; each fall, winter, and spring. ILPs generated from these assessments will have smaller assignments, six to ten units per domain. This ensures students have exposure to all of the needed concepts, while still being able to complete assignments before the next assessment.

Alignments done using high stakes testing data are typically used in a summer school setting. These units of instruction can be larger because the assessment is covering a year of standards. The ILPs for each domain consists of about 20 units. A high stakes test alignment will only offer ILPs for the grade that was assessed. Therefore, all students receive the same units of instruction—aligned to the standards tested—for each domain selected.

Classworks units provide skill practice focused on concepts in direct response to students' demonstrated needs. Academic progress is monitored by teachers through reporting options. Lessons are designed to teach specific skills through direct instruction, game-based application, and a 10-question assessment to

evaluate mastery. Within Classworks students work in and complete assignments in each domain to keep pace in the classroom.

Conclusion

As technology and educational expectations continue to evolve, so does Classworks. When available, Classworks uses application program interface (API) to make assessment integrations seamless and secure. As assessments refine and update their cut scores, skills, and overall data, Classworks continually updates the alignment. Students receive instruction aligned to the version of the test the district is using.

Classworks provides quality instruction to complement assessments. Teachers have insight into exactly where their students are struggling. Using Classworks, they can put this data to work effectively and efficiently to make sound instructional decisions. Students receive the targeted instruction they need to accelerate learning and achieve success.