

Using Data to Improve Student Performance

The pressures on schools today are enormous.

- Research shows that teachers have more content to cover than hours to teach.
- *No Child Left Behind* means more testing to measure whether students are meeting state standards and proficiency levels.

The solution:

Easy-to-use professional development resources that align state standards in English language arts, mathematics, and science with

- ◆ state tests mandated by NCLB and state graduation requirements
- ◆ essential skills students need for success

The data in these resource kits help keep all teachers “on the same page” in determining teaching priorities.

The International Center’s **Curriculum Matrix** resource kits can help your school manage an overcrowded curriculum.

In working with high-performing schools and districts throughout the country, the International Center for Leadership in Education has found that using reliable and readily accessible data helps teachers set priorities for instruction that lead to higher student achievement. Many successful schools *take something off the plate* so they can focus instruction on:

1. the state standards that will be tested on the high-stakes tests that students must take
2. the skills and knowledge that students need to be successful after graduation.

Teachers can use the **Curriculum Matrix** to determine:

- whether a standard is likely to be tested
- whether a standard is considered a high priority for students after they leave school.

The International Center has developed a **Curriculum Matrix** for your state:

- ◆ discover the priority (high, medium, or low) that your state testing program gives to its state standards/benchmarks/performance indicators
- ◆ identify the knowledge and skills that are essential, nice to know or not as important for students in their post-high school careers.

From this data, teachers can readily find the standards/benchmarks for the grade and subject they are teaching. They can then determine if a standard/benchmark is likely to be assessed on the state test and the relative weight given to it. They can also discover its importance in terms of what students need to know and be able to do after high school graduation.

Reliable and easily accessible data helps teachers set priorities for instruction and leads to higher student achievement.

For Teachers and Curriculum Planners...

Achieving AYP Using State-specific Curriculum Matrix Data

This kit provides user-friendly crosswalks of your state's standards to state assessments in English language arts, math, and science and to the International Center's Curriculum Survey of Essential Skills. High (H), medium (M), and low (L) priorities are assigned to the standards based on the crosswalks. The kit includes professional development activities to help educators set instructional priorities, improve pedagogical skills, and teach for rigor and relevance. Also included are 75 Gold Seal Lessons for K-8 and 75 for 9-12. The lessons are linked to the essential skills.

For Administrators...

No Child Left Behind State-specific Resource Kit for School Leaders

This resource kit for state, district, and school leadership explores ways in which administrators can address the proficiency challenges of state testing.

While no one knows where the NCLB legislation ultimately will lead, nearly everyone can agree that all students deserve as rigorous and relevant an educational experience as possible. This kit can help administrators move their district and schools closer to that goal.

Topics covered include:

- Accountability Under NCLB
- Reading in the Context of *No Child Left Behind*
- Closing the Achievement Gap
- Factors that Produce High-achieving Students
- What Teachers Say Is Important
- The Principal as Instructional Leader
- What Students Say about Their Academic Success

plus . . . your state's **Curriculum Matrix**.

For Career/Technical Educators...

Academic Excellence Through Career and Technical Education – A Resource Kit Incorporating the CTE Curriculum Matrix

The development of academic skills must be a shared responsibility of all teachers. Career and technical educators can enhance students' academic performance through application-based learning.

Designed for CTE leaders and teachers, this kit will help to focus instruction in CTE on the English language arts, math, and science skills and knowledge students need for success – both on state-mandated tests and in the world beyond school.

The kit includes:

- state-specific data on the academic standards test priorities that can be addressed in CTE programs
- video presentations that capture key aspects of strengthening CTE
- Gold Seal Lessons to teach essential skills/standards in the context of CTE

For Special Education Teachers and Leaders...

Improving Performance for Special Education Students – With Curriculum Matrix Data for Meeting AYP

This kit assists administrators and teachers in improving the performance of students with disabilities who are taking part in the general education curriculum and state assessment program. It includes a discussion of raising expectations for students with disabilities, an assessment tool related to effective instructional programs for these students, and practical ideas for Grades 3-12 classrooms to help improve student performance.

The section on using data to improve performance has staff development activities and the state-specific **Curriculum Matrix** for English language arts, mathematics, and science.



Why this Information Is Important

Districts need good data for curriculum planning.

Although all standards should be taught, teachers already make decisions daily about which ones to emphasize. "Test-prep" materials can help, but they don't help prioritize instruction.

The **Curriculum Matrix** helps educators to prepare students for state testing. Equally important, it also provides information on which standards/benchmarks need to be emphasized to prepare students for success in adult life. Both factors must be considered when making instructional decisions.

Meeting High Academic Standards Through Arts Education – A Resource Kit Incorporating the Arts Curriculum Matrix

With the ongoing emphasis on high-stakes testing, schools need to provide students with multiple pathways to success by focusing on their strengths and interests. This kit will help arts education teachers and leaders implement a discipline-based arts education program that assists all learners with improved academic performance.

The state-specific Grades 3-12 Arts Education Curriculum Matrix crosswalks high-priority English language arts, math, and science standards to:

- visual arts
- music
- dance
- theatre

Staff development activities are provided to help arts educators incorporate English language arts, mathematics, and science standards in their teaching.

Which kits are right for your school or district?

Achieving AYP Using State-specific Curriculum Matrix Data
Elementary, Middle, and High School Administrators and Teachers, Curriculum Specialists, Art Specialists

Improving Performance for Special Education Students
Special Education Teachers and Leaders

Academic Excellence Through Career and Technical Education
Career and Technical Education Teachers

Meeting High Academic Standards Through Arts Education
Arts Teachers, Elementary Teachers

No Child Left Behind State-specific Resource Kit for School Leaders
Administrators, Other Education Leaders

◆ Curriculum Matrix ◆ Generic Sample

Your state standards ↓	The essential skills crosswalked to your state standards ↓	Your state test crosswalked to your state standards ↓	Summary of priority ratings in Columns 3 and 4 (helps teachers prioritize instruction)	
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Communication Arts Standards/Benchmarks/Indicators Grade 11	Curriculum Survey of Essential Skills National Ranking Rank	State Test Grade 11	Curriculum Survey	Priority
Standard 2 – Writing Learners write effectively for a variety of audiences, purposes, and contexts Benchmark 1: A proficient writer uses ideas that are well developed, clear and interesting.				
Indicator 1: select topics that are original and appropriate to the task.	3	H	H	H
Indicator 2: write insightfully from knowledge or experience.	36	H	M	H
Benchmark 2: The proficient writer uses authentic and appropriate voice				
Indicator 1: write expository, technical, or persuasive pieces that reflect a strong commitment to the topic and an effort to bring it to life by anticipating the reader's questions and showing why the reader should want to know more.	12	L	H	M

↑ Essential skill ranking (out of 101 English topics) High, Medium, or Low probability of being tested Priority ratings of essential skills 1-35=High; 36-70=Medium; 71 & up=Low

The Grades 3-12 Curriculum Matrix for your state is included in

- **Achieving AYP Using State-specific Curriculum Matrix Data**
- **Improving Performance for Special Education Students**
- **No Child Left Behind State-specific Resource Kit for School**



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