

Questions and Answers

Integrating Technology and Teaching Strategies to Develop Common Core Curricula

K-12 Webinar February 26, 2013, Hosted by Assessment Technology Incorporated

Presented by Scott Cunningham, Assessment and Instructional Design Director

Q: Will districts be able to upload their own resources and what about copyright issues?

A: Yes. Districts can upload content and resources into Dialogs assuming that the district has been granted a license to use any copyrighted material that may be included in the upload. Please note that licenses to use copyrighted material are generally very specific in the ways in which the license can be used. For example, in a district that has been granted a district-wide license to use a particular set of images, or a passage, or a text, a Dialog may be created including the material and sharing can be set up so only the people in that district see that Dialog. If the district next door to that district does not have permission to use the copyrighted content, ATI would not set up privileges for the neighboring district to use the Dialog. In ATI-offered professional development addressing dialog construction, attendees are introduced to sources for resources in public domain. Dialogs containing public domain resources and no limited licenses to copyrighted materials can be shared broadly across school districts. To summarize, you can upload whatever you need and all ATI needs to do is work with you to identify where the license stands so that you are able to share the Dialog as broadly as is legally permissible.

Q: [Does ATI] have a robust set of Dialogs like what we're seeing now ready for use or is this still in development?

A: Currently, there are 1,600 ATI-developed Dialogs that are ready for use right now. Many are aligned to the Common Core State Standards, though some, such as those for science, are not as there are currently no science specific Common Core State Standards. New science Dialogs will be written and the current ones refined to be in alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards when they are released.

Q: Can students access Dialogs from home?

A: Yes. Dialogs can be provided to students as class assignments or as individualized activities for students to access outside of the classroom. There are a number of situations in which this might be important. For example, there may be aspects of a unit being covered in class that simply cannot be included during class time. These items can be included in a Dialog and the students can log in from a computer at home or from a lab or from the library and they can access that material.

Q: Would we be able to produce graphically interactive activities such as the ones that we're seeing in the Dialogs?

A: Yes. There are a variety of resources that can be added to Dialogs some of which include flash, scripting languages, animated GIFs or implementation of graphics, links to resources on the web, and even animations or videos can be added to Dialogs. Licensed content or content you have built can be attached and presented in Dialogs.

Q: Where do items come from and do they match all standards? For example, here in California we have some additional standards.

A: The ATI Assessment and Instructional Design team consists of educators who are well versed in educational theory and practice and in academic standards and content development. All items in the Galileo item banks come from the ATI Assessment and Instructional Design Department. Items are written to shared Common Core State Standards as well as to state-specific standards including those for California. The content is dynamic in that it receives routine maintenance given the continual evolution of standards and the emergence of new standards. As standards evolve and as new standards emerge, the content team both creates new content and monitors the fit between previous content and the evolved or new standards. Specifications are written that accurately and effectively measure the standard, and refine the process by defining the particular skills or knowledge inherent in components of the standard. ATI writes and maintains item content for all standards measurable with current technology capabilities while ATI development staff designs innovative assessment technology to handle the Common Core instruction and assessment goals. All standards that can be measured with current technology are covered with assessment items.

Q: Is this [Cavalieri's Principle] Dialog you [are] using available for us to use? If so, where do we find it?

A: The Dialog about Cavalieri's Principle that was featured in the presentation is currently in progress. It will be available in our banks the first or second week of March. Dialogs can be searched under the Curriculum tab within Galileo. There is a link for "Search Dialog Bank" and when selected you will have the option to search by a standard or standards as well as the ability to search by a keyword in the title.

Q: Most all of your examples seem to apply to middle school and high school lessons. Do you have an extensive amount of content/lessons for K-5 too?

A: There are more than 1,600 ATI-created Dialogs available now including Dialogs for early elementary grades along with those for middle and high school. In addition, many Dialogs created by clients have been designated by those clients for across district sharing. These Dialogs also have content for early elementary grades along with content for other grade levels.

Q: Are Dialogs available to use now?

A: Yes. The Galileo K-12 Online Dialog bank covers many standards in math, reading, and science. The Dialog technology has been in Galileo for four years and with the new focus on Common Core State Standards in instruction, more Dialogs are being added.

Q: When will we see test items that have this type of technology?

A: Item types, including selected-response, constructed-response, and performance-based are all available now. Additional innovative technology-enhanced item types will be available for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Q: If there is not a Dialog, who do we contact to find out when one will be available? Can we request the development of a Dialog in a specific standard area if we need more than what is listed?

A: Yes. If there is a standard you would like to see covered in a Dialog, please feel free to contact the Field Services staff at ATI and they will forward the request to the Assessment and Instructional Design Department to review for further dialogic coverage.

Q: [Are Dialogs] available for scientific investigation?

A: ATI has various Dialogs related to scientific inquiry, including designing and conducting investigations. ATI offerings will be expanding as new assessment and instructional content is designed to align to the Next Generation Science Standards.

Q: Will these Dialogs function on tablets or iPads?

A: Preliminary testing indicates that Dialogs that do not contain Flash animations will work with iPads. Apple does not support Flash for the iPad. ATI is currently using other technology for developing animations for the iPad. Tablets that support Flash may accommodate Dialogs containing Flash animations. Testing of tablets beyond the iPad at ATI is just beginning. ATI will provide information on tablets beyond the iPad when it becomes available.

Q: Can you please include more information about the ability to upload information, as mentioned during the Q and A session.

A: A variety of resources may be easily attached to Dialogs, including an entire PowerPoint, PDF documents including simple worksheets, images, video, and interactive resources.

Q: I notice that the Dialogs and item bank test questions do not match up with the Common Core math expectations of higher level thinking, analysis and explanation of answers. When do you expect your lessons and tests to align with Common Core expectations?

A: The math Dialog that was featured (Cavalieri's Principle) in the webinar was not shown in its entirety. It does address the higher level thinking skills Common Core expects. ATI content writers are currently writing both Dialogs and items almost exclusively for Common Core with emphasis on higher level thinking tasks. The Common Core State Standards aligned items will appear on the new Galileo comprehensive benchmark assessment series (CBAS) assessments modeled after Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) prototypes.

Q: How do you search for [Dialogs] in Galileo?

A: Dialogs can be searched under the Curriculum tab within Galileo. There is a link for "Search Dialog Bank" and when selected provides the option to search by a standard or standards as well as the ability to search by a keyword in the title.

Q: Will the [Dialog] questions be in audio as well? Not just written questions?

A: The Galileo Dialog bank offers many item types that make use of audio. The Dialogs themselves are not audible at the present time.

Q: Are there going to be more Dialogs aligned to Common Core soon?

A: Yes. ATI will continue to add new Common Core State Standards-aligned Dialogs and some districts writing Dialogs elect to have those Dialogs shared across districts. ATI will host a summer training focusing on *Instructional Dialog* technology and Common Core Curricular Development. Dates will be available on the ATI website.

Q: Will the price of Galileo services remain the same?

A: The cost of Galileo is based on an annual renewal per student licensing fee. ATI has a dedicated Research and Development team that continues to add new features to Galileo, like the Dialogs, at no additional fee. To obtain cost information about Galileo, please contact an ATI Field Services Coordinator.

Q: Is there a way to include a place for students to explain their thinking – a performance-based part to this process?

A: The ability for students to input explanations and notes directly into dialogs is scheduled for 2013-2014.