

## Beyond the Score Report

The focus of QualityCore is to improve rigor and readiness in all areas of curriculum and classroom instruction. Teachers can enhance rigor in classroom assignments and assessments by using the Educator's Guide in conjunction with the other QualityCore instructional materials. These materials include model instructional units and strategies for developing lesson plans, as well as formative items for developing ongoing rigorous assessments throughout the year.

### Curriculum and Classroom Instruction

Each QualityCore course includes research-based ACT Course Standards, a course description, a syllabus, a course outline, and an instructional unit plan that provides a sequence for yearlong courses. These models should be used as general guidelines and adapted to reflect the policies of a district, school, or teacher.

The course outline displays the information in a scope-and-sequence fashion, allowing the reader to quickly note those standards that appear more than once across the units. The instructional unit plan provides easy access to the set of standards representing each instructional unit. The QualityCore instructional units provide models of exemplary practice and illustrate the ways in which course standards are best connected to instruction and delivered in the classroom.

Successful, rigorous courses are created when sophisticated materials and clearly articulated learning goals are placed in the hands of expert teachers. Those expert teachers must have a rich understanding of the subject they are teaching; knowledge of how that subject is created, organized, and linked to other disciplines; and the instructional repertoire to help them create multiple pathways through which students can develop a deep understanding of the subject being taught.

### Formative Item Pools

The Formative Item Pool included with each course is an integral part of QualityCore. These test items are intended to help schools and districts measure progress and determine whether a student or group of students needs additional instruction on particular skills or concepts.

Each QualityCore course has its own set of Benchmark Assessments selected from the QualityCore Formative Item Pool. Each assessment consists of 15 to 25 multiple-choice items and one constructed-response item. For the English courses, the multiple-choice and short-answer assessments are organized by genre; each constructed-response item addresses a specific writing task. For other courses, multiple-choice items are grouped by Course Standards. The items collected for the Benchmark Assessments have the same structure and objectives as the items on the end-of-course (EOC) tests. Although student scores have not been collected on the Benchmark Assessments, the methods used to create both the Benchmark Assessments and the EOC tests are very similar.