Technology-Enhanced Items
FAQs
Revised 9/22/14

1. **What are Technology-Enhanced Items (TEI)?**
   Computer-delivered items that require students to carry out specialized interactions in order to solve a problem or answer a question. TEI allow the Stride Academy system to collect valuable student response data.

2. **Why have we added Technology-Enhanced Items to Stride Academy?**
   To prepare students for PARCC, Smarter Balanced, ACT Aspire and other technology-based assessments which test national or state standards using these same question formats. Using TEI in Stride Academy allows students to have practice with these types of problems before taking state assessments, so the specialized interactions become second nature. With TEI, students are required to demonstrate deeper understanding in more ways than the traditional multiple choice questions, and TEI allows for constructive responses.

3. **In what grades are Technology-Enhanced Items available?**
   Grades 3 through High School.

4. **In what subjects are Technology-Enhanced Items available?**
   Currently, Mathematics and Reading.

5. **Are Technology-Enhanced Items included on PMA and Gap?**
   Not at this time.

6. **How many Technology-Enhanced Items are available?**
   A total of 2,000 TEI will be added over the 2014-15 school year. 80% of TEI will cover content in Grades 3-8 and 20% will cover High School content.

7. **When will students begin seeing Technology-Enhanced Items in Stride Academy?**
   As of Sept. 2014, more than 500 TEI have been released into Stride Academy (with additional items added weekly), so students are already seeing these questions.

8. **When will Technology-Enhanced Items be available for Science and Language Arts?**
   At this time, TEI will only be available for Mathematics and Reading. If LTS recognizes a need for TEI in other subject areas, we will review and make the necessary enhancements.

9. **How do Technology-Enhanced Items align with state standards / Common Core?**
   TEI are written to skills that unpack the individual state and national standards.
10. How do TEI work when teaching Special Education students? Can you opt out of TEI questions?
TEI are linked to the skills and standards within the Stride Academy system. Students will automatically receive these item types in conjunction with the traditional multiple choice questions. Teachers are not able to opt out of the TEI questions.

11. Are Technology-Enhanced Items available in Quiz Builder?
Not at this time.

12. What types of Technology-Enhanced Items will be seen in Stride Academy?
- Drag and Drop, available in Mathematics and Reading
- Drop Down Menu, available in Mathematics
- Highlighting, available in Reading
- Ordering, available in Mathematics and Reading
- Written Response, available in Mathematics
- Plotting Points, available in Mathematics
- Evidence-Base Selected Response (Part A / Part B), available in Mathematics
- Multiple Selected Response, available in Mathematics and Reading.

13. Are Stride Academy standard features available on Technology-Enhanced Items?
Yes. TEI are also supported by targeted PDF lessons, video lessons, the calculator, dictionary and scratch pad.

14. Will students need a special link to access Technology-Enhanced Items?
No. TEI are built into Stride Academy, so students will not need an extra link to access these question types.

15. Will rationales still be available on Technology-Enhanced Items?
Yes. If a student does not fully answer the question or if a student answers a question incorrectly on a first attempt, a rationale (educational explanation for the incorrect or incomplete answer) will appear. For TEI, rationales will be more general to a particular skill since there are many ways that a student can answer the question.

16. If a reading passage is part of a TEI, will students be able to look back on the passage to answer the question?
Yes. Students can access the passage by clicking “Expand” while attempting to complete their answers.

17. What does the “Unlock” button do on Technology-Enhanced Items?
If a student answers a question incorrectly on the first attempt and receives a rationale, the “Submit” button will turn to “Unlock.” Students can select the “Unlock” button to reset the question for a second attempt.
18. What happens if a student doesn’t fully answer a Technology-Enhanced Item?
A message will appear asking the student to please answer the question fully. Receiving this message does not penalize the student.

19. How long are Written Response Technology-Enhanced Items?
Written Response item types are short written responses. Students will be asked to enter a word or number, not a paragraph. This type of question allows for students to recall information rather than recognize information.

20. Why is there a “Next” button on some Technology-Enhanced Items?
The “Next” button means that the problem has a second part (Part A, Part B). Once a student answers the first part correctly, they will proceed to the next screen. Students will not be allowed to advance until the first part has been answered.

21. For Multiple Select item types, will Part A and Part B follow the same question format?
No, the format will vary for each question. So, Part A may be a Plotting Points question and Part B may be a Written Response.

22. Are coins awarded for correct answers on TEI in the same manner as for multiple-choice questions?
Yes. Students will receive 2 coins if they answer the TEI question correctly on the first attempt. One coin will be awarded if they answer correctly on second attempt, and no coins are awarded if they do not answer the question correctly. If a question has two parts (i.e., Evidence-Based Selected Response, Part A / Part B), each part will be treated as a separate question. This means the student has an opportunity to earn a total of 4 coins.

23. Will the TEI be translated into Spanish?
At this time, the TEI will not be translated into Spanish.

24. What is next for Technology-Enhanced Items?
Weekly throughout 2014-15, the LTS development team will release 50-100 new TEI for each grade level in Mathematics and Reading until all 2,000 items have been released to students. We will continue to examine any new changes to TEI in PARCC, Smarter Balanced, ACT Aspire and other technology-based assessments being utilized by school districts across the country. LTS will ensure that we are meeting the needs of our customers to help with preparing for these assessments and developing students’ deeper understanding of rigorous skills and standards.