



**ORIGO Education  
Publisher's Response**

**EdReports' Evaluation of *ORIGO Stepping Stones*  
Grade 3 through Grade 5**

ORIGO Education commends EdReports for the work it does to support districts and educators in their search for high-quality programs aligned to the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSSM). It is apparent that the reviewers exercised diligence and took great care in providing thoughtful and specific feedback on areas where *ORIGO Stepping Stones* excels and areas where it can be improved. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide a response to the report in order to describe the changes and additions to *ORIGO Stepping Stones* that are already in development and to offer clarification when needed.

*ORIGO Stepping Stones* is an award-winning mathematics program written and developed by a team of experts who utilized all available educational research to provide educators with access to a world-class program. At the time when the CCSSM were released, we at ORIGO Education endeavored to support teachers on their initial journey toward the intended shifts of the CCSSM. As a result, *Stepping Stones* version 1.0 was developed to honestly address both the content and the intent of the CCSSM. At the time the program was deemed 100% aligned to the CCSSM by Learning List, an independent K–12 instructional materials review service. *Stepping Stones* v1.0 has also received several awards for its innovation including:

- 2016 BESSIE Best Educational Software Award: Professional Development/Math Website
- 2015 Academics' Choice Award Winner: Smart Book
- 2015 District Administration Top 100 Products
- 2013 EDDIE Education Software Review Awards: Teacher Tools, K-5 Math Resources
- 2013 AEP Award: Distinguished Achievement Award, Whole Curriculum, Mathematics
- 2012 District Administration Top 100 Products
- 2012 EDDIE Education Software Review Awards: Teacher Tools, K-5 Math Website

A study conducted by Johns Hopkins University sought to evaluate the impact of *ORIGO Stepping Stones* v1.0 on student achievement outcomes in the Worthington (OH) Public School District during the 2013-2014 school year. This study yielded the following key findings:

- Demonstrated gains from students using *ORIGO Stepping Stones* on standardized tests
- Of the nearly 3,000 students examined, over 50 percent improved more than their virtual comparison group.
- Worthington students produced growth that exceeded their control groups by 0.3 RIT points.
- Nearly 60% of students met or exceeded their Hybrid Growth Targets by 1.5 RIT points.



- The biggest gains were seen in first-grade students, with nearly 80% exceeding their Hybrid Growth Targets.

The final report can be accessed by clicking on [JHU Efficacy Study](#).

Stepping Stones v1.0 was released prior to the guidelines set forth by Achieve the Core. These guidelines offer even more specific direction than what was provided by the authors of the CCSSM at the time they were released. Having the benefit of feedback from current *Stepping Stones* users and organizations such as Achieve the Core and EdReports, we are developing the next generation of *Stepping Stones* version 2.0 in order to provide even greater support for educators to ensure their successful implementation of the CCSSM.

*ORIGO Stepping Stones* version 2.0 will be released Summer 2017 with the following changes and additions:

- A greater percentage of lessons which address the major clusters at each grade level
- Lessons involving major clusters to be completed by the end of Module 10 to ensure students have experienced the most important content prior to state assessments
- More explicit labeling and information about how lessons involving additional and supporting clusters cohere to the major clusters within and across grade levels
- More opportunities for rigorous problem solving with greater depth of knowledge
- Additional problem-solving tasks that are non-routine and integrate different domains and cluster headings
- More opportunities for students to construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- More teacher support on how to develop the Standards for Mathematical Practice (SMP), support English Language Learners, and differentiate instruction to ensure that all students engage in meaningful mathematics
- Summative assessments that focus solely on grade-level learning targets aligned to the CCSSM
- Representation of all eight Standards for Mathematical Practice in each module in each grade

We thank the EdReports team for providing valuable information to ORIGO Education. We are excited for the release *ORIGO Stepping Stones* v2.0 as we know it will continue to provide mathematics educators with the best resource available to ensure a successful implementation of the CCSSM. We are also looking forward to the EdReports team reviewing the new version, as we are confident that the results will show an even stronger correlation to the guidelines of Achieve the Core on which the EdReports methodology is based.