

# Instructional Materials Technology Information

Title: LearnZillion Guidebooks

Content Area: ELA

Publisher: LearnZillion

Grades: 6-8

Copyright: 2018

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Since EdReports released its first reviews five years ago, the materials landscape has changed dramatically, especially in the area of technology. District questions have evolved from ensuring materials could be accessed on older browsers and versions of operating systems to detailed questions about interoperability, compatibility, security, support, and digital design. These questions have become even more important during the pandemic as districts assess what instructional materials may work best in their communities not just in-person, but also remotely and in hybrid settings. Access to high quality instructional materials by all students is more important than ever, and technology plays an essential role in that access. To help provide technology information for materials that meet alignment criteria in Gateways 1 and 2, EdReports has requested publishers answer the following questions to help consumers better understand the digital design and capabilities of their instructional materials.

- Section 1 provides broader questions most frequently asked of EdReports about the design of materials. These questions are meant to provide higher level, summary information.
- Section 2 provides more fine-grained details on aspects of design and functionality.

## **Considerations When Reading This Document**

- EdReports is seeking the most accurate, descriptive information about curricular products. We are not evaluating quality or desirability, but documenting features in materials to empower local schools and districts with information to select materials that will work best for them given their technological capabilities and instructional vision.
- The information in this document comes directly from publishers. EdReports reviewed the information for clarity and
  consistency, but did not verify its accuracy. Questions you have regarding any of the reported information should be
  directed to the publisher of the product.
- Look at the information in the "Details" column carefully. Functionality and digital design can vary greatly depending on how a publisher responded. Most publishers provide granular information for each question to illuminate their responses.
- This document is most effective when paired with questions that relate to your local context and reviewed with both content and IT staff. Consider your district's technological access and capacity amongst students, teachers, and schools.



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## **Section 1: Usability Snapshot**

This section includes questions on digital design and support that allows users quick access to essential information.

#### \* Note:

"Yes with core product" below should be used to indicate functionality in the core materials as reviewed by EdReports that are available without LMS integration.

	Check Only One					
Questions	Yes with core product	with core with		Under Development	Details	
Are the materials designed so that students are able to access and complete work online?					LearnZillion products will work on any internet-enabled device, including but not limited to Windows and Apple desktop and laptop computers, Chromebooks, tablets, and smartphones. LearnZillion products are web-based and do not require any additional hardware or software to function properly. In order for the platform to collect and save student responses, devices must have an internet connection. Digital activities (student-facing tasks, practice, summaries, etc.) can be assigned to one, some, or all students, allowing you to differentiate based on access to technology and/or the learning needs and preferences of your classroom and students.	
Do the materials support learning in hybrid settings (both in-person and remote learning) concurrently?	J				There is a wide range of ways to use the materials, and LearnZillion's offering is designed with entry-points for all teachers— those in classrooms without access to technology, those with limited or unreliable access, those who are not comfortable	



		with technology, as well as those who use technology with sophistication or have 1:1 access.  The LearnZillion platform is used by teachers across the country and has been purpose-built and designed for classroom use. We believe in simple, uncluttered design in everything we do; we believe that "bite-sized" content works best, and we have designed for the varied use cases and technologies that may be in use in classrooms.  We have also made Distance and Unfinished Learning Resources available to support districts with hybrid and remote learning situations.
Are tasks, activities, and lessons able to be printed either for in-class use or for use in at-home learning?		<ul> <li>We found a balance between digital and print, leveraging each to the best of their abilities.</li> <li>Printed teaching companions are available for each unit.</li> <li>Teachers can also use the "Print" button on lesson plans to prepare a lesson facilitation guide that can be used during instruction.</li> <li>In the Additional materials tab of each lesson, teachers can find, download, and print: <ul> <li>Handouts that include the main activities in the lesson and the lesson summary.</li> <li>Both an editable version (Microsoft Word) and a PDF version of the student-facing files</li> </ul> </li> <li>Printed students handout books ensure that students have the student-facing materials they need.</li> </ul>



Is there instruction so students can work independently (or with an adult at home)?		Resources are provided to send home to families to support their understanding of what students will be working on, and suggestions for involving family members in the classroom community are also provided in unit overview materials.  There are opportunities within each unit for students to work asynchronously outside of classroom time, including opportunities to activate background knowledge in Let's Set the Context Videos, Independent Reading assignments and a variety of writing assignments.
Does the technology facilitate a teacher's ability to differentiate lessons, tasks, or other content for students?		Teachers can create classes and manage their student rosters. They can assign assignments to students and view teacher reports. Additionally, teachers can view the teacher notes section on lesson plans. All user interface elements are simple and visual, and all information is scaffolded and embedded.  Teachers can adjust lessons by adding or deleting slides, revising the text on slides, adding the "capture work" functionality, adding "explain your thinking" functionality, adding audio or video to lesson cards, and adding additional quizzes.  Teachers can easily assign any part of a lesson or assessments to students.  Many practice and assessment items are automatically scorable, saving teachers time and providing immediate insight into student progress. While the platform does not adapt based on student responses, many lesson plans include additional supports for diverse learners.



Are there tutorials, videos, or other integrated supports in the materials to help educators to understand and/or utilize the materials?		The LearnZillion platform provides in-context professional development to teachers and offers tools to make strategic planning easy. The Curriculum Guide offers insight into the design and guiding principles of the curriculum, strategies for supporting diverse learners and how to prepare for instruction. The Curriculum Guide also includes embedded videos and lessons to support teacher usage of the materials and navigation of the LearnZillion platform.  Within the curriculum's Teaching Notes, teachers access just-in-time, direct links to training and support materials that refresh important curricular elements, including appropriate instructional routines; supports for diverse learners.  In addition, because the platform is flexible and
		customizable, districts can easily embed their own PD and guidance into the curriculum.
Are there tutorials, videos, or other integrated supports in the materials to help parents/guardians to understand and/or utilize the materials?		Each unit includes a letter to families to provide an overview of what students will be learning during the unit. The letter includes a breakdown of what students will be learning, how they will be learning, and what families can do to support their students' learning at home.
Are all of the following audiences provided access to the product as part of the core purchase?  • parents/guardians • Educators (Teachers, Administrators, etc.)		Students have the ability to view and take assignments, which may include lesson plans and assessments, such as section quizzes and culminating tasks.  Users with the teacher role, which may include administrators, have the ability to create classes



• Students			and manage their student rosters. They also have the ability to assign assignments to students and view teacher reports. Additionally, teachers have the ability to view the teacher notes section on lesson plans. These teacher notes are only visible to the teacher role or higher and are not visible to students. School administrators can do everything teachers can do, plus they can export a CSV of their school's assessment data.  Parents and guardians can access the materials through their student's login. Teachers or districts can also share the URLs of the family materials page on the main LearnZillion site for parent's to access without an account.
Are the materials designed to integrate with a Learning Management System (LMS)?	1		LearnZillion is a member of the on the IMS Global Learning Consortium and has successful integrations with leading LMSs in K-12 Education: Canvas, Schoology
Does all content conform to the <u>National</u> <u>Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard?</u>		✓	LearnZillion Guidebooks materials have not been submitted to NIMAS. We have done preliminary testing to ensure that our product does not interfere with assistive technologies.
Is there technical support during day-to-day use?			<ul> <li>All provisioned users have access to dedicated support resources, including:         <ul> <li>A customer success and customer support team that will help you stay current on updates, walk you through any integration issues that may arise and help resolve any technical challenges</li> <li>24/7 self-serve how-to documentation for IT administrators, teachers, students, site authors, and administrators, accessible via the district's LearnZillion site</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



					<ul> <li>24-hour customer support for technical issues via email</li> </ul>
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## **Section 2: Technology Checklist**

The following checklists are designed to give more detailed information about digital design and technical capabilities in key areas of instructional materials to support state and local decision making. This list reflects details commonly requested by those making purchasing decisions at the state or local level.

### Design

Design questions address whether the materials are designed to be used digitally in an in-person environment, remote learning environment, or both. Digital design can vary, often ranging from the ability to access files that are identical to print materials online to doing tasks and assessments as part of the program. The ability to take advantage of design functionality may depend on answers to questions in other sections of the checklist such as internet capabilities, number and type of devices, etc.

#### \* Note:

"Yes with core product" below should be used to indicate functionality in the core materials as reviewed by EdReports that are available without LMS integration.

	Check Only One						
Questions	Yes with core product	Yes with dependencies	No	Under Development	Details		
Are the materials designed to be used with both digital and print components?  Are there print options available for student-facing materials that could be utilized in a blended digital approach?  Is the print content identical, similar, or comparable to the digital?					<ul> <li>LearnZillion materials are available in a digital format through our platform and a few different print formats:</li> <li>Districts can purchase printed and bound teaching companions, student-facing handouts and unit readers for each course.</li> <li>Teachers or administrators can print lesson materials, section quizzes and culminating tasks.</li> </ul>		



			<ul> <li>The print matches the digital content, except for access to texts and assessments.</li> <li>Printed Unit Readers and trade books offer access to texts that require third-party permissions. All openly licensed texts are offered within the platform.</li> <li>Access to assessments is only offered in the digital platform. Many assessments, including culminating tasks, are provided in a print-ready format for download from the platform.</li> </ul>
Is the digital design of the materials intended to replicate a textbook experience?		✓	The digital design has similarities to a textbook experience but is enhanced by interactive content and digital assessments. The same content is available as in traditional textbooks, but includes an experience that is optimized for instruction.
Are digital teacher guides available for the materials?			The LearnZillion platform is optimized for planning and instruction. Materials are strategically placed at point of use, for easy access to content, exactly when it is needed.  Teacher materials are provided online, in print, and in printable PDF format. While all teaching notes and materials are available digitally within each lesson, teachers can also print out lesson-by-lesson guides for easy reference and lesson cards with the teaching notes included to support seamless facilitation.
Do the materials contain videos/animations/simulations for student learning?	1		Each unit includes Let's Set the Context videos which support instruction by providing additional context or building background knowledge on a particular topic.



Is any or all online content dependent on links that are not maintained by the publisher?	1		Some texts are accessed through links to other sites. These texts are in the public domain and are typically able to be accessed in a variety of ways.
Do the materials include opportunities for online collaboration among students?		1	
Do the materials include built in features for student-to-teacher interaction?			LearnZillion Guidebooks provides ample opportunities for appropriate teacher-student interaction. The curriculum is deliberately designed to shift the role of the teacher from "sage on the stage" to "guide on the side."  Lessons include discussion prompts, student look-fors, and supports for diverse learners.  Each lesson includes an opening and closing narrative for the teacher that explains the objectives of the lesson, offers suggested questions for discussion, and presents guiding questions designed to increase classroom discourse and ensure understanding of the concepts.
Is a 1:1 device ratio required?		1	LearnZillion is flexible with device ratio and recommendations vary by grade range.
Are the assessments contained within the materials able to be securely completed by students online?	•		This is true of all assessments included in the materials. Digital assessments use a variety of technology-enhanced items (TEIs) to provide students with opportunities to prepare for next-generation assessments. Many of the items in the digital assessment problems can be automatically scored. Users with authoring privileges can modify assessments.
Is data available about user sessions (e.g., timestamps, content being viewed, callbacks fired, etc)?	<b>√</b>		Site administrators can see the last login for all users. Teachers can see which students viewed an assignment and when.



Are there online professional learning supports to help teachers utilize the materials?	1	Embedded video resources are available for free as well as paid online professional development.
<ul> <li>Are there parent/guardian resources available for school systems to utilize:</li> <li>For when there is in-person instruction?</li> <li>For when there is hybrid instruction?</li> <li>For creating continued learning plans for distance learning schedules?</li> </ul>	✓	Each unit includes a guide that explains the key ideas and concepts in the unit in family-friendly language. These pages are meant to create a stronger school-home connection and empower parents and guardians to support students at home. These pages also include some examples of tasks for caregivers to try at home with their students. Teachers can print this page or copy into other communications with families.

Learning Management Systems	Blackboard	Canvas	Eduphoria	Google Classroom	ItsLearning	Moodle	Schoology	Other: Please list below
Are the materials configured to work with one or more learning management systems?		✓		J			<b>√</b>	

LearnZillion recommends using the latest version of supported LMS platforms. Please contact LearnZillion for additional details.



## **System Access**

System access questions address how users access the digital materials and what kind of logins/passwords are accepted/supported/required.

#### \* Note:

"Yes with core product" below should be used to indicate functionality in the core materials as reviewed by EdReports that are available without LMS integration.

		Check C	nly One	•		
Questions	Yes with core product	Yes with dependencies	No	Under Development	Details	
Is single sign-on supported?	J				LearnZillion has Single Sign On (SSO) capability to meet the needs of district LMSs. LearnZillion can facilitate SSO with your district systems using ADFS, Google Apps, LDAP, LTI, and more (see the full list here). Students, teachers, school administrators, and Clever District administrators can access applications through Clever single sign-on.	
Can the platform manage staff assigned to multiple schools with a single sign-on?	1					
Can co-teachers be assigned to multiple classes?			1			
Can students who move between teachers or schools using the same materials be re-assigned without losing their work/progress?				✓	Currently, the student will not lose work but new teachers will not see assignments they did not create.	



Can the platform provide user accounts for staff members (principals and other admin) who are not assigned students?	1		As part of the standard contract admin accounts can be provisioned to principals and other staff members. Additional admin accounts can be created by customer admins.
Can passwords be reset without assistance from trained IT staff?	1		Password reset is available but can be disabled for students and teachers.
When working offline, does the product automatically sync when a connection is re-established?		<b>√</b>	Offline assigned work is not supported.

## **Technical Support**

Technical Support questions are designed to help users understand what assistance to expect. These details are important to consider alongside local capacity for devices, networks, and use. Considering what level of independence users will have alongside these criteria can help schools and districts reflect on their needs for support.

#### \* Note:

"Yes with core product" below should be used to indicate functionality in the core materials as reviewed by EdReports that are available without LMS integration.

	Check Only One					
Technical Support	Yes with core product	Yes with dependencies	No	Under Development	Details	
Is technical support provided to districts during initial set-up and deployment?	1				Implementation support and documentation are available following purchase.	
Is technical support provided during the duration of the contract?	1				Yes. All users (free/pro/enterprise) with any role have access to a support form that feeds a	



			ticketing system. Paid subscribers also have a customer success manager. Support is available 8am-5pm M-F eastern time and users should receive a reply within 24hrs.
If utilizing a free or trial version, is technical support provided?	✓		There is an easily accessible form that goes to an immediate ticketing system. The ticketing system allows all users, free and paid, access to LearnZillion support staff and to receive direct responses to questions and concerns.
Are there self-service supports for troubleshooting?	✓		LearnZillion has a help system accessible to all users and embedded resources for students and teachers.
Does technical support include planning for emergency access and district support?	1		LearnZillion support staff can access any customer's account on an as-needed basis. Customers can reach support directly through standard support channels.



## Compatibility

Compatibility questions address technical compatibility specifications. It is designed to help users understand how the materials will look and operate on various devices. These details are important to consider alongside local capacity for devices, networks, and use. Understanding what devices function best can help determine users' needs for district device or technical support.

#### \* Note:

"Yes with core product" below should be used to indicate functionality in the core materials as reviewed by EdReports that are available without LMS integration.

		Check Or	nly One	е	
Questions	Yes with core product	Yes with dependencies	No	Under Development	Details
Does the product have a native mobile application?			1		
Is the product browser-based?	1				
Does the product use responsive design for rendering on smartphones?	1				
Does the product use responsive design for rendering on tablet devices?	1				
Does the product use responsive design for rendering on laptop devices?	1				
Does the product use responsive design for rendering on desktop devices?	1				
Are all users (students/teachers/staff/admin/parents) permitted to use the product on more than one	1				No additional downloads or licenses are required to access on multiple devices.



device (e.g. computer at school and a laptop at			
home or a smartphone and a laptop)?			

Device Type	Mark box if device is compatible	Oldest operating system/version supported	Newest operating system/version supported	Details Indicate if the materials are designed for a specific device type or if they are generally compatible.
Windows	1	NA	NA	This program is web-based and can be accessed on any internet enabled device with a compatible browser
Linux	1	NA	NA	This program is web-based and can be accessed on any internet enabled device with a compatible browser
Windows Tablet	1	NA	NA	This program is web-based and can be accessed on any internet enabled device with a compatible browser
Apple Laptop/Desktop	1	NA	NA	This program is web-based and can be accessed on any internet enabled device with a compatible browser
iPhone	1	NA	NA	This program is web-based and can be accessed on any internet enabled device with a compatible browser
iPad	1	NA	NA	This program is web-based and can be accessed on any internet enabled device with a compatible browser
Android Phone	1	NA	NA	This program is web-based and can be accessed on any internet enabled device with a compatible browser
Android Tablet	J	NA	NA	This program is web-based and can be accessed on any internet enabled device with a compatible browser
Chromebook/Chrome OS	1	NA	NA	This program is web-based and can be accessed on any internet enabled device with a compatible browser
Amazon Fire OS	1	NA	NA	This program is web-based and can be accessed on any internet enabled device with a compatible browser
Other E-Reader	1	NA	NA	This program is web-based and can be accessed on any internet enabled device with a compatible browser
Interactive Whiteboard	1	NA	NA	This program is web-based and can be accessed on



_			Operating System						
Bro	owser	Apple		Wind	dows				
	Check if browser is compatible	Oldest version supported	Newest version supported	Oldest version supported	Newest version supported	Linux	Chrome OS	N/A	
Chrome	1								
Firefox	1								
Safari	1								
Edge (formerly Internet Explorer)	1								
Internet Explorer	1								
Other:									

Additional Notes: Recommended and minimum browser version requirements can be found at;

https://help.learnzillion.com/hc/s/?id=What-Browser-and-Operating-System-Should-I-Use

This information is updated as new versions are released.



# **Accessibility**

Curricula with digital capabilities integrate accessible supports in a variety of ways. Accessibility questions pertain specifically to diverse learners who may need specific supports to be able to successfully interact with materials.

	(	Check O	nly One		
Questions	Yes with core product	Yes with dependencies	No	Under Development	Details
Screen Readers	1				LearnZillion software is browser-based and will work with any browser-based text-to-speech tools.
Screen Magnification Software	✓				LearnZillion software is browser-based and will work with any browser or OS magnification software.
Text Readers	1				LearnZillion software is browser-based and will work with any browser-based text readers.
Adjustable Print Size	1				LearnZillion software is browser-based and will work with any browser-based tools to change print size.
Speech Input Software	✓				LearnZillion software is browser-based and will support speech input software and can also capture teacher audio recordings.
Header Point Devices	1				LearnZillion software is browser-based and will support devices compatible with the browser.
Motion/Eye Tracking Devices	1				LearnZillion software is browser-based and will support devices compatible with the browser.
Single Switch Entry Devices	1				LearnZillion software is browser-based and will support devices compatible with the browser.
Braille Readers/ Display Devices	1				LearnZillion software is browser-based and will support devices compatible with the browser.
Closed Captioning			1		Not required for LearnZillion hosted content.



Alternative Input Devices	1		LearnZillion software is browser-based and will support devices compatible with the browser.
High Color Contrast Display Options		1	
Translation of Text to Other Languages		1	
Bilingual Dictionaries available for students		1	
Are there required accessories (headsets, speakers)?		1	
Multiple Playback of audio/video	1		
Can students adjust the speed of audio/video playback?	1		
Are these accessibility supports able to be turned on/off?	1		Yes, but they are on by default
Does all browser-based technology satisfy the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines or <a href="VPAT">VPAT</a> ?		1	Section 508 compliance.

# **Additional Technology Specifications**

## Data Security and Privacy

Data Security and Privacy questions address how student data storage, disposal, and adherence to privacy laws are addressed. If applicable, privacy reports and/or certificates can be found next to the respective indicator.

Questions	Check Only One			D. L. 7.	
Questions		No	Under Development	Details	
<b>Data Security:</b> Are data elements encrypted at rest, i.e. in a database or file system?	1			LearnZillion encrypts all customer and user data at rest and in-transit with AES-256 encryption.	



<b>Data Security:</b> Do the materials refer students to video, content, and other online sources that are not native to the materials?		1	
<b>Data Security:</b> Does the end-user licensing agreement allow customers to scrape data from the product?		1	
<b>Privacy:</b> Is personally-identifying student data provided to, generated by, or stored in any systems used by the product?	1		For Clever users please visit https://help.learnzillion.com/hc/s/?id=Clever-Roster-Sync-and-Instant-Login-a Please contact LearnZillion to request specific details.
<b>Privacy:</b> Does the product/vendor make their student privacy policy publicly available?	1		https://learnzillion.com/privacy
<b>Privacy:</b> Does the product conform with FERPA regulations (e.g., allows districts to maintain direct control of the student record, implements permissions to prevent unnecessary disclosures, etc.)?	1		We agree to protect records and be in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
<b>Privacy:</b> Has a third-party evaluated the product for FERPA compliance?		1	
<b>Privacy:</b> Does the product allow registration or data collection from children under the age of 13?		1	



# Installation

		ck On	ly One	<b>~</b>
Feature/Requirement/Specification	Yes	No	Under Development	Details
Is the product downloaded to individual devices: one-time internet connection required?		1		
Is the product installed on individual computers (from CD-ROM/DVD, flash drive, etc.): no internet connection required?		1		
Is the product installed on LAN/WAN (school or district server): no internet connection required for teachers/students after installation?		1		
Required server configuration. Do network admins need to ensure a specific set of domains are white listed to allow the internet traffic to those endpoints?	1			A list of domains will be provided to customers
Does the product support deployment through Mobile Device Management (MDM) systems?		1		
Does the product provide a detailed schedule of updates that minimizes access interruption?	1			
Does the login authentication use district protocols to establish unique and memorable usernames and passwords?	1			See https://help.learnzillion.com/hc/s/?id=Clever-Roster-Syn c-and-Instant-Login-a
Is there an option for concurrent user licensing?		1		



Standards Compliance/Certification	Check all that apply	Details
SIF		If checked, include where customers can verify this information.
CEDS		If checked, include where customers can verify this information.
EDUPUB		If checked, include where customers can verify this information.
Ed-Fi (SIS/ODS)		If checked, include where customers can verify this information.
Ed-Fi (Assessments)		If checked, include where customers can verify this information.
MS Global (Competencies and Academic Standards Exchange)		If checked, include where customers can verify this information.
IMS Global (Comprehensive Learner Record)		If checked, include where customers can verify this information.
IMS Global (Open Badges)		If checked, include where customers can verify this information.
IMS Global (One Roster)	✓	https://site.imsglobal.org/certifications/clever/clever-secure-sync#cert_pane _nid_188036
IMS Global (Caliper Analytics)		If checked, include where customers can verify this information.
IMS Global (Question and Test Interoperability (QTI))		If checked, include where customers can verify this information.
IMS Global (Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI))	✓	https://site.imsglobal.org/certifications/learnzillion/learnzillion#cert_pane_nid_ 188506
IMS Global (LTI Advantage)		If checked, include where customers can verify this information.
IMS Global (Common Cartridge)	1	We have not certified with IMS Global, but we have the capability.
IMS Global (Lite Common Cartridge)		If checked, include where customers can verify this information.
IMS Global (Open Video)		If checked, include where customers can verify this information.
Other:		If checked, list and include where customers can verify this information.



Implementation and Scalability	Yes/No or Value
What is the average page load time?	Less than 3 seconds
What is the required bandwidth per user?	1 Mbps
Are results of stress tests provided to customers?	No
Is a disaster recovery plan for data provided to customers?	If requested
Are customers provided with a standardized implementation plan to ensure a successful rollout?	Yes, based on customer preferences and pedagogy
Does the service level agreement include uptime guarantees of at least 95% excluding planned maintenance/down-times?	Yes
Does the product require a VPN for off site access?	No

