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Instructional Materials Technology Information

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Content Area: Science
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Copyright: 2022

Instructional Materials Technology Information

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 is requesting 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.

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.

Section 1: Usability Snapshot

This section includes questions on digital design and support that allows users quick access to essential information. Please do not exceed a 150 word limit per question. You may use or remove prompt text in providing additional details. Words in the detail prompt text will not count toward the word limit.

* Note:
"Yes with core product" below should be used to indicate functionality in the materials purchased that are available without LMS integration.
"Yes with dependencies" below refers to functionality present or accessible only through working in a separate LMS, by utilizing other software as a plug-in, or linking externally to sites outside the materials.

Questions	Check Only One				Details
	Yes with core product	Yes with dependencies	No	Under Development	
Are the materials designed so that students are able to access and complete work online?	✓				Students are able to access the student edition online; however, they must download the fillable PDFs to complete their work and then submit them to their instructor either via email or the district LMS. If the district/school opts not to order print materials, then each student would need their own device to access the student edition. The student doesn't necessarily need continuous reliable internet if the teacher pre-prints student handouts that the student can then complete and turn in. • Note if this is within the native materials system or if it requires LMS integration or other integrated software. The resource is housed on Flourish, a platform operated by Kendall Hunt. Students and teachers can access the curriculum, student sheets, videos,

					and slide decks from within the platform. ● Does online work require a 1:1 device ratio? No ● Does each student need a continuous reliable internet connection to use all materials features? No. PDFs can be saved to allow for offline access. Videos
In what ways do the materials support learning in hybrid settings (both in-person and remote learning) concurrently?	✓				Ways our materials support remote learning: ● The SE contains Reference Readings that can support students when in-person and group discovery is not an option. ● Alternate slides with pre-collected data for wet labs ● "Distance Learning Suggestion" callouts in the TE ● Jamboard options for activities
Are tasks, activities, and lessons able to be printed either for in-class use or for use in at-home learning?	✓				Yes. All tasks and activities can be downloaded in PDF format to be used as at-home learning.
Is there instruction so students can work independently (or with an adult at home)?	✓				Although remote adaptations and reference reading are provided, they are not a replacement for experiencing the lessons nor are they intended to be regularly assigned as pre-reading or post-reading homework. Reference readings are provided to support the teacher in managing the logistics of effective teaching and learning using Anchored Inquiry Learning.

Does the technology facilitate a teacher's ability to differentiate lessons, tasks, or other content for students?				✓	• Does the technology itself differentiate based on student responses? No • Does it provide feedback to students directly as they complete assignments? No • Does the technology provide recommendations to the teacher? No • What control does the teacher have over the content? (e.g., Can changes • be made to a question's wording? Can teachers choose specific reading • selections?) Teachers can download the PDFs, convert them to Word and make edits to adjust the material as they deem necessary. For some of the activities, the teacher has access to multiple versions of handouts that can provide more detail and support for students. Many readings are handled as jigsaw activities, so a teacher can pre-choose groups based on the article and student ability.
Are there tutorials, videos, or other integrated supports in the materials to help educators to understand and/or utilize the materials?				✓	There are video tutorials/webinars available for teachers that cover: • Navigation of the teacher and student guide • How to download, save and function within fillable PDFs

					• What is meant by Anchored Inquiry Learning Approach and how to implement it. The *Teacher Handbook* is also an integral part of implementing the program.
Are there tutorials, videos, or other integrated supports in the materials to help parents/guardians to understand and/or utilize the materials?	✓				Yes. The home page within the Flourish platform houses a video "Get to Know Your Resources" that walks parent/guardians and students through the platform. Each unit provides a letter home for parents to understand what their child will be learning and resources to support them at home, as well as a comprehensive document providing resources for adult-level science learning to support parents/guardians 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	✓				Yes, once purchased, district and school administrators, teachers and students have access to the product. Parents/guardians would be able to use their student's log in.
Are the materials designed to integrate with a Learning Management System (LMS)?	✓				Flourish integrates with Canvas; in addition, we also have Clever and ClassLink, which are 3rd party platforms that allow schools to use a sign-on from their LMS directly into Flourish and/or use their LMS class rostering to set up their user accounts and product access in Flourish.
Does all content conform to the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard?	✓				

Is technical support during day-to-day use primarily the responsibility for the client or the publisher?	✓				Technical support is provided by Kendall Hunt and is available seven days a week from 8 a.m. - midnight CST.

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. You may use or remove prompt text in providing additional details.

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.

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Questions	Check Only One				Details
	Yes with core product	**Yes** with dependencies	**No**	Under Development	
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	✓				• What are the print options? (check all that apply) ○ ✔ Purchase hardcopy books/workbooks ○ ✔Photocopies available for purchase

utilized in a blended digital approach? Is the print content identical, similar, or comparable to the digital?						○ ✔ Users can print PDF assignments at home or school ● Add any additional details. The curriculum resource can be used as strictly digital, strictly print, or a blended approach. Student sheets are downloadable in fillable PDF format. Print content is identical to digital content for ease of use.
Is the digital design of the materials intended to replicate a textbook experience?						
Are digital teacher guides available for the materials?						● How do teachers access digital teacher guides? After purchase, teachers are able to access teacher guides via Kendall Hunt's Flourish platform. ● Are guides available to parents/guardians at home? Yes, the Flourish platform home page houses a video "Get to Know Your Resources" that walks parent/guardians and students through the platform and allows access to the student materials. Each unit provides a letter home for parents to understand what their child will be learning and resources to support them at home. ● Do teacher planning materials connect to student-facing lessons? Yes ● Are there any additional costs for these resources? No

Question	Yes		No		Notes
Do the materials contain videos/animations/simulations for student learning?	✓				• Specify frequency (every lesson, some lessons, only teacher support, both teacher and student). Videos, animations, and simulations are located throughout the resource and their frequency is dependent on the content being delivered. Unit 1 has 6 videos/simulations, Unit 2 has 9 videos/simulations, Unit 3 has 6 videos/simulations, and Unit 4 has 1 video/simulation. • Are these native to the materials or accessed by links that lead to other sources not maintained by the publisher? All resources are native to the materials maintained by the publisher.
Is any or all online content dependent on links that are not maintained by the publisher?			✓		
Do the materials include opportunities for online collaboration among students?	✓				There are many ways for students to collaborate online in digital spaces such as Padlet and Jamboard.
Do the materials include built in features for student-to-teacher interaction?	✓				The structure of Anchored Inquiry Learning contains many routines as well as the embedded sensemaking and literacy strategies that are built on student-teacher interactions (ex: Scientist Circle in the Generate an Explanation routine)
Is a 1:1 device ratio required?			✓		A 1:1 device ratio is preferred, but teachers can download and print or project the PDF files. Students can complete their work on paper rather than the digital PDF files. Videos and slides can be projected for the entire class to see together.
Are the assessments contained within the materials able to be securely completed by students online?	✓				• Ils this true of all assessments? Yes • Are assessments editable by teachers?

					Yes, if a teacher is able to edit the PDF file.
Is data available about user sessions (e.g., timestamps, content being viewed, callbacks fired, etc...)?			✓		
Are there online professional learning supports to help teachers utilize the materials?	✓				The Teacher Handbook contains an array of professional learning supports for successful implementation of the curriculum, including: The Instructional Approach, Implementing Anchored Inquiry Learning, Strategies and Supports for Implementing Equitable Next Generation Science Learning, How to Use the Course Components, and Literacy and EML Support Tools. We provide recorded webinars about the BSCS UFL materials. While those recordings are helpful as teachers make sense of the materials, we strongly encourage teachers to engage in synchronous in-person or online professional learning when starting to use our materials.
Are there parent/guardian resources available for school systems to utilize: ● For when there is in-person instruction? ● For when there is hybrid instruction? ● For creating continued learning plans for distance learning schedules?	✓				Yes, the Flourish platform home page houses a video "Get to Know Your Resources" that walks parent/guardians and students through the platform. Each unit provides a letter home for parents to understand what their child will be learning, in addition to resources available to support them at home and a comprehensive document providing resources for adult-level science learning to support parents/guardians.

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	✓	✓				✓	✓	Flourish can utilize Clever and ClassLink,

systems? Check all that apply.								which are 3rd party platforms that allow schools to use a sign-on from their LMS directly into Flourish and/or use their LMS class rostering to set up their user accounts and product access in Flourish.
If the materials integrate with any of the LMS above, include information here about any additional costs and which version of your materials and the LMS was tested.								

System Access

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

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Questions	Check Only One				Details
	Yes with core product	**Yes** with dependencies	**No**	Under Development	

Is single sign-on supported?	✓					Flourish can utilize Clever and ClassLink, which are 3rd party platforms that allow schools to use a sign-on from their LMS directly into Flourish and/or use their LMS class rostering to set up their user accounts and product access in Flourish.
Can the platform manage staff assigned to multiple schools with a single sign-on?	✓					Yes, there is a role for the school system administrator.
Can co-teachers be assigned to multiple classes?	✓					Co-teachers would have separate log in information but still be able to access the curriculum.
Can students who move between teachers or schools using the same materials be re-assigned without losing their work/progress?	✓					Because assignments are sent by the teacher in a PDF format, students will have downloaded the assignment and saved it in order to send it back to the teacher. In this way, no progress or work is lost.
Can the platform provide user accounts for staff members (principals and other admin) who are not assigned students?	✓					Yes. The Flourish Platform provides for school administrator and district administrator roles, teacher roles and student roles. The only purchases required are for teachers and students.
Can passwords be reset without assistance from trained IT staff?	✓					Yes, there is a password reset feature on the home screen of the Flourish Platform.
When working offline, does the product automatically sync when a connection is re-established?						NA This platform is only available online and requires access to an internet connection when using the eBook or any materials not downloaded from Flourish.

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.

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Technical Support	Check Only One				Details
	Yes with core product	**Yes** with dependencies	**No**	Under Development	
Is technical support provided to districts during initial set-up and deployment?	✓				The Flourish platform technicians offer support during initial adoption and full set-up, both through synchronous calls during weekly office hours and asynchronously through our email support system and knowledge base. Kendall Hunt also provides a live-chat feature for real time support.
Is technical support provided during the duration of the contract?	✓				Yes, Flourish offers the same on-demand support throughout implementation as we do during initial adoption and deployment.
If utilizing a free or trial version, is technical support provided?	✓				Yes, Flourish offers the same on-demand support throughout a free trial, initial adoption, and implementation.
Are there self-service supports for troubleshooting?	✓				Yes, Flourish offers tutorials to troubleshoot navigation, access and fillable PDF download and usage. We also provide a live-chat feature for real time support.
Does technical support include planning for emergency access and district support?	✓				Yes

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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.

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Questions	Check Only One				Details
	Yes with core product	**LMS Dependent**	**No**	**Under Development**	
Does the product have a native mobile application?			✓		
Is the product browser-based?	✓				
Does the product use responsive design for rendering on smartphones?	✓				
Does the product use responsive design for rendering on tablet devices?	✓				
Does the product use responsive design for rendering on laptop devices?	✓				
Does the product use responsive design for rendering on desktop devices?	✓				
Are all users (students/teachers/staff/admin/parents) permitted to use the product on more than one	✓				Users can access their account on multiple devices, but only one at a time when they log in.

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	✓			
Linux	✓			
Windows Tablet	✓			
Apple Laptop/Desktop	✓			
iPhone	✓			
iPad	✓			
Android Phone	✓			
Android Tablet	✓			
Chromebook/Chrome OS	✓			
Amazon Fire OS	✓			
Other E-Reader	✓			
Interactive Whiteboard	✓			

Browser	Operating System				
	Apple	Windows	Linux	Chrome OS	N/A

	Check if browser is compatible	Oldest version supported	Newest version supported	Oldest version supported	Newest version supported			
Chrome	✓							
Firefox	✓							
Safari	✓							
Edge (formerly Internet Explorer)	✓							
Internet Explorer	Obsolete							
Other:____	✓							
Additional Notes:								

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.

Questions	Check Only One				Details
	Yes with core product	Yes with dependencies	No	Under Development	
Screen Readers	✓				

Screen Magnification Software	✓				
Text Readers			✓		
Adjustable Print Size	✓				
Speech Input Software			✓		
Header Point Devices					
Motion/Eye Tracking Devices			✓		
Single Switch Entry Devices					
Braille Readers/ Display Devices			✓		
Closed Captioning	✓				Provided for embedded videos
Alternative Input Devices			✓		
High Color Contrast Display Options			✓		
Translation of Text to Other Languages	✓				Spanish
Bilingual Dictionaries available for students	✓				Available in the Spanish student edition
Are there required accessories (headsets, speakers)?	✓				Computer speakers would be required for media resources.
Multiple Playback of audio/video	✓				
Can students adjust the speed of audio/video playback?			✓		
Are these accessibility supports able to be turned on/off?			✓		

Does all browser-based technology satisfy the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines or VPAT?	✓			Yes, to the WCAG. We can provide a VPAT if requested.

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			Details
	Yes	No	Under Development	
Data Security: Are data elements encrypted at rest, i.e. in a database or file system?	✓			In transit used SSL encryption. At rest is 256 AES encryption
Data Security: Do the materials refer students to video, content, and other online sources that are not native to the materials?	✓			It is a closed system.
Data Security: Does the end-user licensing agreement allow customers to scrape data from the product?		✓		
Privacy: Is personally-identifying student data provided to, generated by, or stored in any systems used by the product?		✓		We ask the customer not to send us PII data.
Privacy: Does the product/vendor make their student privacy policy publicly available?	✓			Privacy Policy	Flourish (flourishkh.com)
Privacy: 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.)?	✓			

Feature/Requirement/Specification				
Privacy: Has a third-party evaluated the product for FERPA compliance?		✓		
Privacy: Does the product allow registration or data collection from children under the age of 13?		✓		

Installation

Feature/Requirement/Specification	Check Only One			Details
	Yes	**No**	**Under Development**	
Is the product downloaded to individual devices: one-time internet connection required?		✓		The PDF files that support much of the learning can be downloaded, but don't have to be, depending on how the teacher uses them in the classroom.
Is the product installed on individual computers (from CD-ROM/DVD, flash drive, etc.): no internet connection required?		✓		
Is the product installed on LAN/WAN (school or district server): no internet connection required for teachers/students after installation?		✓		
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?		✓		
Does the product support deployment through Mobile Device Management (MDM) systems?		✓		It is web based so it is not needed. The URL link can be pushed through MDM.
Does the product provide a detailed schedule of updates that minimizes access interruption?	✓			

Does the login authentication use district protocols to establish unique and memorable usernames and passwords?	✓			District staff is able to create/set username and passwords. Student ID's or other nomenclature can be used according to the district protocols. Each user is required to have their own unique login.
Is there an option for concurrent user licensing?		✓		

Standards Compliance/Certification	Check all that apply	Details
SIF		
CEDS		
EDUPUB		
Ed-Fi (SIS/ODS)		
Ed-Fi (Assessments)		
MS Global (Competencies and Academic Standards Exchange)		
IMS Global (Comprehensive Learner Record)		
IMS Global (Open Badges)		
IMS Global (One Roster)	✓	
IMS Global (Caliper Analytics)		
IMS Global (Question and Test Interoperability (QTI))		
IMS Global (Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI))		

IMS Global (LTI Advantage)	✓	
IMS Global (Common Cartridge)		
IMS Global (Lite Common Cartridge)		
IMS Global (Open Video)		
Other:		

Implementation and Scalability	Yes/No or Value
What is the average page load time?	<4ms
What is the required bandwidth per user?	
Are results of stress tests provided to customers?	No
Is a disaster recovery plan for data provided to customers?	No
Are customers provided with a standardized implementation plan to ensure a successful rollout?	Yes
Does the service level agreement include uptime guarantees of at least 95% excluding planned maintenance/down-times?	We do not provide SSL but our uptime has been 99.998 the last 3 years
Does the product require a VPN for off site access?	No

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