

# 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.

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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. 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?		X			The student materials are on a read-only website, so they can access but cannot <i>complete</i> the work online. The website does not require continuous connectivity, but each page load does require working internet.  Students can complete their work online via an LMS if the student material is embedded in the LMS.
In what ways do the materials support learning in hybrid settings (both in-person and remote learning) concurrently?	X				The student web materials are content-identical with the printed student materials, so it is easy to shift between classroom books and web.
Are tasks, activities, and lessons able to be printed either for in-class use or for use in at-home learning?	X				All student materials and Blackline Masters can be downloaded for printing.
Is there instruction so students can work independently (or with an adult at home)?	X				Students can access all of their materials online/remotely.

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student web materials are content-identical with the printed student materials</li> <li>• Additional resources are available online for parents/guardians to engage with their students as they work with the material.</li> </ul>
Does the technology facilitate a teacher's ability to differentiate lessons, tasks, or other content for students?		X			Teachers can edit all content as needed for students by downloading the Word versions of each component of the curriculum.
Are there tutorials, videos, or other integrated supports in the materials to help educators to understand and/or utilize the materials?	X				<p>All teacher materials are available online and include a variety of supports throughout each lesson.</p> <p>Additional resources will be made available in an ongoing process to provide the most in-the-moment response to the field.</p>
Are there tutorials, videos, or other integrated supports in the materials to help parents/guardians to understand and/or utilize the materials?	X				<p>Parents/guardians have access to specific information to aid them in interacting with their child throughout the course.</p> <p>Help, Hints, and Explanations (for a fee) provide videos and PDFs related to the Ready, Set, Go portion of every lesson.</p>
<p>Are all of the following audiences provided access to the product as part of the core purchase?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• parents/guardians</li> <li>• Educators (Teachers, Administrators, etc.)</li> <li>• Students</li> </ul>	X				<p>All teacher material is available online for free with an email registration.</p> <p>All student material is available for free online. There is no registration required.</p> <p>All parent/guardian materials are available online for free with no registration required.</p>

Are the materials designed to integrate with a Learning Management System (LMS)?		X			Any LMS can link to the curriculum. Educators have the ability to manage those links in the LMS of their choice.
Does all content conform to the <a href="#">National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard</a> ?	X				
Is technical support during day-to-day use primarily the responsibility for the client or the publisher?			X		Any technical support inquiries are forwarded to the publisher for resolution.

## 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
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	Yes with core product	Yes with dependencies	No	Under Development	
Are the materials designed to be used with both digital and print components?					Print and digital materials for students are content-identical. All teacher print materials are content-identical online. Assessments, Blackline Masters, parent/guardian resources, and any updates to the materials are specific to the website.
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?	X				
Is the digital design of the materials intended to replicate a textbook experience?			X		The web materials use standard, accessible navigation to allow quick access to specific units and lessons.
Are digital teacher guides available for the materials?	X				All teacher material is available online for free with an email registration. Access to assessments requires additional manual validation of educator status.
Do the materials contain videos/animations/simulations for student learning?			X		
Is any or all online content dependent on links that are not maintained by the publisher?	X				All links connect to educational based sites. No district restrictions are needed.
Do the materials include opportunities for online collaboration among students?			X		
Do the materials include built in features for student-to-teacher interaction?			X		
Is a 1:1 device ratio required?			X		The web materials are read-only, so multiple students can reference the materials on the same device.

Are the assessments contained within the materials able to be securely completed by students online?		X			Assessments are available online in word and PDF documents to registered teachers. Teachers can modify the documents and upload them in a LMS for students.
Is data available about user sessions (e.g., timestamps, content being viewed, callbacks fired, etc...)?			X		No student data is tracked or stored by the publisher.
Are there online professional learning supports to help teachers utilize the materials?	X				Professional Learning is provided at a cost and can be done in person or virtually. Additional on-demand and online professional learning will be made available throughout the year.  OUR Communities provide free virtual support to all interested educators.
Are there parent/guardian resources available for school systems to utilize: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>		X			Parent/guardian and student materials are available online without any registration requirement.

<b>Learning Management Systems</b>	<b>Blackboard</b>	<b>Canvas</b>	<b>Eduphoria</b>	<b>Google Classroom</b>	<b>ItsLearning</b>	<b>Moodle</b>	<b>Schoology</b>	<b>Other: Please list below</b>
Are the materials configured to work with one or more learning management systems? Check all that apply.		X		X		X	X	X

## 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?	X				Clever
Can the platform manage staff assigned to multiple schools with a single sign-on?	X				
Can co-teachers be assigned to multiple classes?	X				There are no restrictions on course access for registered users.
Can students who move between teachers or schools using the same materials be re-assigned without losing their work/progress?		X			Students access the web materials without registration, but assignment/progress saving requires usage of a third-party LMS.
Can the platform provide user accounts for staff members (principals and other admin) who are not assigned students?	X				Any staff member can register for access to all materials.

Can passwords be reset without assistance from trained IT staff?	X				All staff.
When working offline, does the product automatically sync when a connection is re-established?			X		

## 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?	X				Website access is free and easy; we provide email tech support for users who need help.
Is technical support provided during the duration of the contract?	X				Website tech support is available via email.
If utilizing a free or trial version, is technical support provided?	X				
Are there self-service supports for troubleshooting?	X				FAQ page on our website.



Does technical support include planning for emergency access and district support?			X		
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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?		X			
Is the product browser-based?	X				
Does the product use responsive design for rendering on smartphones?	X				
Does the product use responsive design for rendering on tablet devices?	X				
Does the product use responsive design for rendering on laptop devices?	X				
Does the product use responsive design for rendering on desktop devices?	X				

Are all users (students/teachers/staff/admin/parents) permitted to use the product on more than one device (e.g. computer at school and a laptop at home or a smartphone and a laptop)?	X				Additional Software or licenses are not needed for students to use the materials on more than one device. .
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Device Type	Mark box if device is compatible	Oldest operating system/version supported	Newest operating system/version supported	Details
Windows	X	Windows Vista 7	Windows 11	Generally compatible.
Linux	X	All desktop versions	All desktop versions	Generally compatible with any Linux system with a visual browser (i.e. not compatible with text-only browsers in the Linux shell).
Windows Tablet	X	All	All	Generally compatible with any tablet that can run a web browser.
Apple Laptop/Desktop	X	All	All	Generally compatible.
iPhone	X	All	All	Generally compatible.
iPad	X	All	All	Generally compatible.
Android Phone	X	All	All	Generally compatible.
Android Tablet	X	All	All	Generally compatible.
Chromebook/Chrome OS	X	All	All	Generally compatible.
Amazon Fire OS	X	All	All	Generally compatible.
Other E-Reader	<input type="checkbox"/>			Not tested.
Interactive Whiteboard	<input type="checkbox"/>			

**Operating System**

Browser		Apple		Windows				
	Check if browser is compatible	Oldest version supported	Newest version supported	Oldest version supported	Newest version supported	Linux	Chrome OS	N/A
Chrome	X	21	114	21	114	X	X	
Firefox	X	28	112	28	112	X	N/A	
Safari	X	7	15.6	5.1.7	15.6	N/A	N/A	
Edge (formerly Internet Explorer)	X	N/A	N/A	12	111	N/A	N/A	
Internet Explorer	X	N/A	N/A	11	115	N/A	N/A	
Other:____	<input type="checkbox"/>							
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		X			All accessibility supports are provided by built-in browser and OS capabilities or plugins.
Screen Magnification Software		X			
Text Readers		X			
Adjustable Print Size		X			
Speech Input Software		X			
Header Point Devices		X			
Motion/Eye Tracking Devices		X			
Single Switch Entry Devices		X			
Braille Readers/ Display Devices		X			
Closed Captioning		X			
Alternative Input Devices		X			
High Color Contrast Display Options		X			
Translation of Text to Other Languages		X			
Bilingual Dictionaries available for students		X			
Are there required accessories (headsets, speakers)?			X		
Multiple Playback of audio/video	X				Currently there are no included videos or audio; but any future videos will use OS/browser functionality.

Can students adjust the speed of audio/video playback?	X				Currently there are no included videos or audio; but any future videos will use OS/browser functionality.
Are these accessibility supports able to be turned on/off?	X				Currently there are no included videos or audio; but any future videos will use OS/browser functionality.
Does all browser-based technology satisfy the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines or <a href="#">VPAT</a> ?	X				WAVE by WebAIM

## 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	
<b>Data Security:</b> Are data elements encrypted at rest, i.e. in a database or file system?	X			Registered users' passwords are stored encrypted and cannot be accessed by administrators. All web requests are encrypted via https.
<b>Data Security:</b> Do the materials refer students to video, content, and other online sources that are not native to the materials?	X			There are a handful of external links in the materials, which are all optional resources. All external links appear as internal links—i.e. they point at the same domain as the web materials—but they redirect to the external sites.
<b>Data Security:</b> Does the end-user licensing agreement allow customers to scrape data from the product?	X			The student materials are hosted on a website without any authentication requirement, so they can be scraped by anyone. But no user data can be accessed or scraped, even by registered users.

<b>Privacy:</b> Is personally-identifying student data provided to, generated by, or stored in any systems used by the product?		X		
<b>Privacy:</b> Does the product/vendor make their student privacy policy publicly available?	X			<a href="https://access.openupresources.org/privacy_policy">https://access.openupresources.org/privacy_policy</a>
<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.)?	X			No student data is stored.
<b>Privacy:</b> Has a third-party evaluated the product for FERPA compliance?		X		Not applicable.
<b>Privacy:</b> Does the product allow registration or data collection from children under the age of 13?		X		

## Installation

Feature/Requirement/Specification	Check Only One			Details
	Yes	No	Under Development	
Is the product downloaded to individual devices: one-time internet connection required?		X		Website. Not applicable.
Is the product installed on individual computers (from CD-ROM/DVD, flash drive, etc.): no internet connection required?		X		Website. Not applicable.
Is the product installed on LAN/WAN (school or district server): no internet connection required for teachers/students after installation?		X		Website. Not applicable.

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?		X	Website. Not applicable.
Does the product support deployment through Mobile Device Management (MDM) systems?		X	Website. Not applicable.
Does the product provide a detailed schedule of updates that minimizes access interruption?		X	Website. Not applicable.
Does the login authentication use district protocols to establish unique and memorable usernames and passwords?		X	Usernames are required to be work email, and password is required to be 6 characters, with at least one number and one upper-case letter.
Is there an option for concurrent user licensing?		X	Website. Not applicable.

Standards Compliance/Certification	Check all that apply	Details
SIF		Website. Not applicable.
CEDS		Website. Not applicable.
EDUPUB		Website. Not applicable.
Ed-Fi (SIS/ODS)		Website. Not applicable.
Ed-Fi (Assessments)		Website. Not applicable.
MS Global (Competencies and Academic Standards Exchange)		Website. Not applicable.
IMS Global (Comprehensive Learner Record)		Website. Not applicable.
IMS Global (Open Badges)		Website. Not applicable.

IMS Global (One Roster)		Website. Not applicable.
IMS Global (Caliper Analytics)		Website. Not applicable.
IMS Global (Question and Test Interoperability (QTI))		Website. Not applicable.
IMS Global (Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI))		Website. Not applicable.
IMS Global (LTI Advantage)		Website. Not applicable.
IMS Global (Common Cartridge)		Website. Not applicable.
IMS Global (Lite Common Cartridge)		Website. Not applicable.
IMS Global (Open Video)		Website. Not applicable.
Other:		Website. Not applicable.

<b>Implementation and Scalability</b>	<b>Yes/No or Value</b>
What is the average page load time?	<1 sec
What is the required bandwidth per user?	0.25 Mbps
Are results of stress tests provided to customers?	No
Is a disaster recovery plan for data provided to customers?	No. No customer data is stored, except user login info.
Are customers provided with a standardized implementation plan to ensure a successful rollout?	No. It's a website.
Does the service level agreement include uptime guarantees of at least 95% excluding planned maintenance/down-times?	No.



Does the product require a VPN for off site access?

No.

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