Instructional Materials Technology Information

Title: Foundations A-Z

Content Area: ELA

Publisher: Learning A-Z

Grades: K-2

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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?	X				- Materials can be accessed via the Foundations A–Z website, foundationsa-z.com. - A 1:1 device ratio is recommended but not required. - An Internet connection is required. - If using the digital component, use headsets with microphones.
In what ways do the materials support learning in hybrid settings (both in-person and remote learning) concurrently?	X				Foundations A–Z can be delivered as a combination of digital and print, solely as print, or solely as digital, resulting in a flexible platform. All resources can be printed, presented, and/or assigned, allowing teachers to maintain the same level of instructional accountability with both synchronous and asynchronous activities in a hybrid setting. Additionally, My Collections is a space where lessons and resources may be saved together and printed or assigned digitally as needed.

As teachers log in to Foundations A–Z, they see the sequence of lessons for each grade level. Within those lessons, they have all of the resources and tools needed to print or present the lesson. This includes html-based lesson plans, practice sheets, checklists, assessments, and eBooks. In addition, teachers can present or assign instructional videos, interactive activities, and assessments for students to complete digitally.

Students use the student area at KidsA-Z.com or the Kids A-Z mobile app, to access their assignments. Assignments are served as Main Quests, and they are gated to ensure each day's lesson is completed in sequence. There are also Side Quests, where teachers may assign single resources, such as assessment or reinforcement and enrichment activities. Teachers can assign videos, interactive games, and eBooks to students to complete. Digital features accompany Foundations A–Z texts. These tools are designed to help students read closely and focus on the essential components of a text. Students learn how to use the tools and features using the Student Read version of each resource. Students use the dashboard to navigate to messages from their teacher or their caregivers and receive notifications when they earn badges. Caregivers can send messages using the Parent Portal as well. Caregivers sign up, and teachers grant access once verified, or teachers can send caregivers an email invitation

					to access the Parent Portal, which prompts them to choose a unique username and password. Students earn stars when they complete activities. They can use their stars to customize their avatar in the Avatar Builder or their Raz Rocket in the Star Zone. With the Foundations A–Z embedded professional development (PD), teachers are provided the support needed to deliver research-based instruction when and where they need it. Teachers can determine when and how to use various types of PD resources. Examples of resources available include Learn from the Experts videos, where literacy field experts provide an approachable deep dive into pedagogical best practices. Put into Practice videos are brief sessions led by literacy coaches highlighting a topic, skill, or strategy. Listen & Learn audio features cover various topics of interest in foundational skills. Finally, Read the Research articles address pedagogy and best practices.
Are tasks, activities, and lessons able to be printed either for in-class use or for use in at-home learning?		X				Student practice worksheets, word cards, and books, along with all of the lessons, are provided in both PDF and digital formats. Once teachers log in to Foundations A–Z, they have the option to present or print the resources and lessons. Teachers also have the ability to assign student instructional videos, interactive games based on

					a lesson's instructional goals, and eBooks, so students can complete assignments at school or at home. Once students complete the assignments, they are auto-scored. The teacher is given the ability to override any auto-score upon review. Teachers have access to reports on completion and can conduct progress monitoring.
Is there instruction so students can work independently (or with an adult at home)?	X				Every student has access to their student dashboard. Teachers make assignments for independent practice, and students see assignments when they log in to the student portal, Kids A-Z. Students can do the following activities within the dashboard: ● Students access purposeful instructional videos that reinforce and review skills from the lesson accompanied by a grade-level mascot to guide them, so they know exactly what to do. ● Students access the fun and engaging game-based activities, which automatically prompts on-the-spot feedback, so they can correct mistakes without the immediate need for the teacher and to support student-directed learning. ● Students read and/or listen to any of the books assigned to them using audio and other tools, such as pens, highlighters, and stamps, as well as sections for notes, a journal, and reflections.

Does the technology facilitate a teacher's ability to differentiate lessons, tasks, or other content for students?					There are several ways the technology helps to facilitate differentiation. • Materials allow customization of independent practice resources, such as videos, games, and reading resources, within each lesson. The teacher can assign these resources to all students, small groups, or individual students as needed for practice. Books assigned by the teacher for independent practice can be assigned for listen, read, or both, independently by student. • Unit assessments are digitally scored and automatically generate auto-recommended resources the teacher can choose to assign to students to reteach, reinforce, or enrich key concepts based on individual student areas of weakness.
	X				
Are there tutorials, videos, or other integrated supports in the materials to help educators to understand and/or utilize the materials?					There are many types of integrated support embedded right in the program at point of use: **WalkMe** serves as a digital tutor right from the initial log-in to assist with various tasks, such as rostering, assigning, and other site navigation. **The on-demand professional development** library includes videos and detailed examples of grade-level foundational skills concepts to support teachers as they develop and build their content knowledge.
	X				

					The Program Guide is one of the most valuable teacher components. The guide not only supports teachers with implementation, it includes complete, detailed adult-level explanations for each foundational skill taught at each grade, along with examples of the grade-level foundational skills concepts. The Program Guide includes detailed sections focusing on the following topics: ● Instructional design with both pathways of instruction ● How teachers use it ● How students use it ● How caregivers get involved ● Differentiation of instruction ● Supporting English language learners ● Research and rationale ● Administration of assessments ● How to read reports **Embedded support in each lesson** includes teaching tips, sample dialogue, and corrective feedback, to support teachers as they guide instruction. **The Research Base** grounding Foundations A–Z includes all of the research behind the program's instructional design and its approach to foundational skills instruction.
Are there tutorials, videos, or other integrated supports in the materials to help	X				**Program Guide** The Foundations A–Z tab called "How Do Caregivers Get Involved" is found in the Program

| parents/guardians to understand and/or utilize the materials? | | | | | Guide and provides information to teachers on giving parents directions to access the Parent Portal. In the parent portal, caregivers can see the following:

Caregiver Letters
A strong home-school connection is essential to students' overall success in literacy. Studies show a direct correlation between caregiver involvement and student motivation. When students associate caregiver involvement and encouragement with what's being taught in the classroom, they are more likely to achieve proficiency and success. Foundations A–Z understands the importance of keeping caregivers informed about learning happening in the classroom. Each grade level includes one caregiver letter per unit. Each letter explains what students will learn and offers quick activities families can do together to support learning at school. At the start of each unit, the teacher downloads and prints the letter to send home or email to caregivers. |
| Are all of the following audiences provided access to the product as part of the core purchase?
  • parents/guardians
  • Educators (Teachers, Administrators, etc.)
  • Students | X | | | | Students and educators receive log in access. Parents are also provided access that is managed by the teacher, who is the best person to verify that the student's caregiver(s) is accurate. |

Are the materials designed to integrate with a Learning Management System (LMS)?		X			
Does all content conform to the [National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard](#)?			X		We do not have materials that conform to NIMAS, but text versions are available upon request that can be used with Brailers.
Is technical support during day-to-day use primarily the responsibility for the client or the publisher?					Educators may reach out for technical support at any time.

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 utilized in a blended digital approach? Is the print content identical, similar, or comparable to the digital?	X				All materials are designed to be used digitally and/or as print components. Users can either project, assign, and/or print the materials at school or at home. The Foundations A–Z platform allows for a blended approach because teachers have an option for each resource in the lessons. They can decide which to print, which to project, and which they prefer to assign, allowing students to complete the lessons on the student dashboard. When schools purchase Foundations A–Z, they receive all grade levels, so teachers have the flexibility of selecting hundreds of resources, creating a very agile curriculum and approach. Because all the content is identical, teachers maintain instructional consistency among students. The only resources that cannot be printed are the videos and digital games, however, they can be presented for a whole-group approach or assigned for independent practice.
Is the digital design of the materials intended to replicate a textbook experience?	X				Print materials are replicated in an eBook format for books and as PDFs for practice sheets.
Are digital teacher guides available for the materials?	X				The digital first approach supports and enhances the program's instructional design. The innovative design of the Foundation A–Z digital platform allows teachers to find resources in several different ways.

					They can follow a set sequence of lesson plans that includes digital and printable resources to help teach their students. The program guide explains how the materials can be used digitally to enhance student learning and how resources are also printable. Foundations A–Z was designed to be a digital first program. However, we know that developmentally, students in the primary grades benefit from physical, printed materials they can manipulate. Being able to turn pages in books, point to words as they read them, manipulate chips as they hear sounds and words, and manipulate words in open and closed word sorts allows for support in engagement, motivation, and fine motor skills. Therefore, all books, workmats, and practice sheets, including assessments, are printable, so teachers and students have options based on needs. Teachers access everything digitally through Foundations A–Z at no extra cost. The price includes all of the program's digital and printable components.
Do the materials contain videos/animations/simulations for student learning?		X				Foundations A–Z contains videos and animations, along with interactive games, with every lesson, every day. These are all maintained within the teacher and student platforms for easy access with no added links.
Is any or all online content dependent on links that are not maintained by the publisher?				X		
Do the materials include opportunities for online collaboration among students?				X		

Do the materials include built in features for studentto-teacher interaction?		X				- Students use the dashboard to navigate to messages from their teacher or their caregiver and to see notifications when they earn badges. - Teachers can send students messages and award them bonus stars from the roster. - Caregivers can send messages using the Parent Portal.
Is a 1:1 device ratio required?				X		Foundations A–Z is not technology dependent for students as teachers can print lessons, activities, and books for use in the classroom and deliver a full grade-level program. The technological components complement Foundations A–Z and can be assigned to individual students, small groups, or an entire class for whole-group practice.
Are the assessments contained within the materials able to be securely completed by students online?		X				All assessments can be completed securely online. They do include a printable version for those who prefer a paper-and-pencil format.
Is data available about user sessions (e.g., timestamps, content being viewed, callbacks fired, etc...)?		X				- We can tie sessions to users by tracking when users have successfully logged in, successful logins can be tracked by a database and logs - We track access to resources from teachers by recording when users have viewed the resources. We track access to resources from students by tracking their assignment and completion activity. - Login, downloads and activity tracking is available to admins and teachers via reports
Are there online professional learning supports to help teachers utilize the materials?		X				There are many types of integrated support embedded right in the program at point of use and free of charge; they are listed below:

| | | | | | Walk me serves as a digital tutor from the first time teachers log in to assist with various tasks, such as rostering, assigning, and other site navigation.

The on-demand professional development library includes videos and detailed examples of grade-level foundational skills concepts to support teachers as they develop and build their content knowledge.

The Program Guide is one of the most valuable teacher components. The guide not only supports teachers with implementation, it includes complete, detailed adult-level explanations for each foundational skill taught at each grade, along with examples of the grade-level foundational skills concepts. The Program Guide includes detailed sections that focus on the following topics:
- Instructional design with both pathways of instruction
- How teachers use it
- How students use it
- How caregivers get involved
- Differentiation of instruction
- Supporting English language learners
- Research and rationale
- Administration of assessments
- How to read reports

Embedded support in each lesson plan includes teaching tips, sample dialogue, and corrective |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

					feedback to support teachers as they guide instruction.
					The Research Base grounding Foundations A–Z includes all of the research behind the program's instructional design and its approach to foundational skills instruction. **On-demand webinars** (live and recorded) are available and accessible on a variety of topics. **Professional learning services (added cost)** delivered by our team of providers are available for customized in-person and remote support based on the educator's needs.
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?	X				Foundations A–Z provides school to home caregiver letters with information about what students are learning in each unit. Foundations A–Z is built to support all learning environments, including in-person, hybrid approaches, and remote learning as all resources are printable, projectable, and assignable to students. Everything a teacher needs, including pacing guides, lesson plans, and professional development, are provided.

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? Check all that apply.		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 • Classlink • Google Classroom • Auto-Roster
Can the platform manage staff assigned to multiple schools with a single sign-on?	X				
Can co-teachers be assigned to multiple classes?	X				We support teachers to be able to have multiple classrooms
Can students who move between teachers or schools using the same materials be re-assigned without losing their work/progress?	X				
Can the platform provide user accounts for staff members (principals and other admin) who are not assigned students?	X				• Administration • Reports Only • Teachers

					Guardians
Can passwords be reset without assistance from trained IT staff?	X				Teachers and Guardians can reset their passwords via a form
When working offline, does the product automatically sync when a connection is re-established?	X		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				• Intercom - AI which can lead to a person • WalkMe • Instructional Support
Is technical support provided during the duration of the contract?	X				
If utilizing a free or trial version, is technical support provided?	X				If requested

Are there self-service supports for troubleshooting?	X				• Intercom • WalkMe • Other Documentation/Pages for Support
Does technical support include planning for emergency access and district support?	X				We can support districts if there are any district wide network types of issues by working with our Customer Service teams or IT.

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				Expansive student-facing and some teacher-facing features
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				A license grants access regardless of device.

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	X	10.0		
Linux	X			
Windows Tablet	X			
Apple Laptop/Desktop	X			
iPhone	X	iOS 12 or higher		
iPad	X	iOS 12 or higher		
Android Phone	X	5.0 or higher		
Android Tablet	X			
Chromebook/Chrome OS	X	113.0.0.0		
Amazon Fire OS	x	5+		
Other E-Reader	☐			
Interactive Whiteboard	x			

Browser		Operating System							
		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	Chrome 76		Chrome 76			113.0.0.0		
Firefox	X	FF 78		FF 78					
Safari	X	Safari 12		Safari 12					
Edge (formerly Internet Explorer)	X	Edge 17		Edge 17					
Internet Explorer									
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	X				

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				Headsets must be purchased separately
Multiple Playback of audio/video	X				Not concurrent
Can students adjust the speed of audio/video playback?	X				
Are these accessibility supports able to be turned on/off?	X				Don't auto-play videos Animations can be enabled/disabled

Does all browser-based technology satisfy the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines or VPAT?		X			We have an accessibility project in process which will cover WCAG 2.0 guidelines

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?	X			All Learning A-Z systems file systems are encrypted at rest using industry standard LUKS for Linux systems and BitLocker for Windows systems.
Data Security: Do the materials refer students to video, content, and other online sources that are not native to the materials?		X		
Data Security: Does the end-user licensing agreement allow customers to scrape data from the product?		X		
Privacy: Is personally-identifying student data provided to, generated by, or stored in any systems used by the product?	X			
Privacy: Does the product/vendor make their student privacy policy publicly available?	X			https://help.learninga-z.com/en/articles/7216595-privacy-policy
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.)?	X			

Privacy: Has a third-party evaluated the product for FERPA compliance?		X		
Privacy: 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	X		Native mobile app downloaded to device; otherwise browser-based
Is the product installed on individual computers (from CD-ROM/DVD, flash drive, etc.): no internet connection required?		X		
Is the product installed on LAN/WAN (school or district server): no internet connection required for teachers/students after installation?		X		
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		https://learninga-z.my.site.com/knowledgebase/s/article/allow-list
Does the product support deployment through Mobile Device Management (MDM) systems?	X			iOS and Android devices support MDM configurations for districts
Does the product provide a detailed schedule of updates that minimizes access interruption?	X			Deployment of updates done in stages to prevent user interruption

Does the login authentication use district protocols to establish unique and memorable usernames and passwords?		X		Internal protocols for same
Is there an option for concurrent user licensing?	X			May be licensed at the district and individual level

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)	X	
IMS Global (Caliper Analytics)		
IMS Global (Question and Test Interoperability (QTI))		
IMS Global (Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI))	X	

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?	1-2 seconds on average but can vary for large reports
What is the required bandwidth per user?	91 MB free storage and 1 GB RAM for the app to run optimally
Are results of stress tests provided to customers?	Provided upon request
Is a disaster recovery plan for data provided to customers?	No
Are customers provided with a standardized implementation plan to ensure a successful rollout?	Documentation on our site and for purchase on-site training for larger customers as an option..
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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