

# 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](#)

[Section 2: Technology Details](#)

- [Design](#)
- [System Access](#)
- [Technical Support](#)
- [Compatibility](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Additional Technology Specifications](#)

## 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 have individual logins for the Reading Playground and access and complete assessments and games online from any desktop, laptop, or tablet.
In what ways do the materials support learning in hybrid settings (both in-person and remote learning) concurrently?	✓				Many aspects of our teacher-led direct instruction take place through the use of our web-based online tools, which can be accessed by the teacher from any desktop, laptop, or tablet. Teachers can provide the direct instruction in-person and also in a remote setting using screen-sharing tools. Students can login and access the assessments, games, and eBooks at any time, in or out of the school setting.
Are tasks, activities, and lessons able to be printed either for in-class use or for use in at-home learning?					Some materials, including some student practice activities, decodable passages, and decodable books are able to be printed and sent home.

Is there instruction so students can work independently (or with an adult at home)?	✓				Some materials, including some student practice activities, decodable passages, and decodable books are able to be printed and sent home for students to work independently or with an adult.
Does the technology facilitate a teacher's ability to differentiate lessons, tasks, or other content for students?	✓				Embedded in our Online Tools are Unit Planners and Instructional Resource compilation documents that provide small group instruction, differentiation suggestions, and modifications and resources for English learners, right at the teacher's fingertips.
Are there tutorials, videos, or other integrated supports in the materials to help educators to understand and/or utilize the materials?	✓				Video tutorials found in the Supply Room help educators understand and utilize materials.
Are there tutorials, videos, or other integrated supports in the materials to help parents/guardians to understand and/or utilize the materials?	✓				Video tutorials found in the Supply Room help educators understand and utilize materials.
Are all of the following audiences provided access to the product as part of the core purchase? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• parents/guardians</li> <li>• Educators (Teachers, Administrators, etc.)</li> <li>• Students</li> </ul>	✓				Educators have access to the Online Tools and the Reading Playground Teacher or School Dashboard. Students have access to the student-facing Reading Playground.
Are the materials designed to integrate with a Learning Management System (LMS)?				X	
Does all content conform to the <a href="#">National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard</a> ?	✓				Our printed student materials are available in NIMAS.

Is technical support during day-to-day use primarily the responsibility for the client or the publisher?	✓				Technical support is available from the publisher via email or phone.
--	---	--	--	--	---

## 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.

**\* 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 to be used with both digital and print components?					Our teacher-led direct instruction is designed to be taught with a combination of the printed teacher guide and the digital online tools and Reading Playground.
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?					Students use their printed workbooks for many practice activities, and additional practice activities involve the use of the online Reading Playground. There are additional printable student practice activities available online.
Is the digital design of the materials intended to replicate a textbook experience?	✓				The digital eBook versions of the Countdown, Blast, and HD Word Teacher Guides are identical to the printed Teacher Guides and replicate the exact same textbook experience.
Are digital teacher guides available for the materials?	✓				Digital eBook versions of the Teacher Guides are available upon request.
Do the materials contain videos/animations/simulations for student learning?	✓				Our instructional animations (videos) are engaging and vibrant tools that present phonemic awareness and phonics concepts in clear, concise, easily understandable ways.
Is any or all online content dependent on links that are not maintained by the publisher?			✓		All online content is maintained by Really Great Reading.
Do the materials include opportunities for online collaboration among students?			✓		
Do the materials include built in features for student-to-teacher interaction?	✓				Our interactive Build a Word Online and Build a Big Word Online activities in the Reading Playground facilitate real-time interaction between teacher and students during decoding and encoding practice. The Online Tools contain a variety of games and activities for teacher-student interaction.
Is a 1:1 device ratio required?	✓				If no, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include recommended device ratio.</li> </ul>

Are the assessments contained within the materials able to be securely completed by students online?	✓					If yes, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is this true of all assessments? Yes.</li> <li>Are assessments editable by teachers?</li> </ul>
Is data available about user sessions (e.g., timestamps, content being viewed, callbacks fired, etc...)?	✓					If yes, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How is this gathered and reported? We collect limited information about dates and times of logins for teachers; for students, we collect and provide reporting on general student activity within predefined time ranges.</li> <li>Who has access to this data? Currently data is directly available only to Really Great Reading, but usage reports are being released Fall 2024 which will provide administrators with access to this data.</li> </ul>
Are there online professional learning supports to help teachers utilize the materials?						If yes, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe these supports and any associated additional costs.</li> </ul>
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>						If yes, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please include details such as if there are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample schedules</li> <li>Instruction guides</li> <li>Classroom management suggestions</li> <li>Feedback options</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<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								None

learning management systems? Check all that apply.								
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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.

**\* 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	
Is single sign-on supported?	✓				SSO is supported via rostering with Clever or Classlink
Can the platform manage staff assigned to multiple schools with a single sign-on?	✓				Staff can be assigned to multiple schools and have multiple roles (administrator or educator)
Can co-teachers be assigned to multiple classes?	✓				

Can students who move between teachers or schools using the same materials be re-assigned without losing their work/progress?	✓				How the move is performed will depend on how the student is rostered in the program (manually or through Clever/Classlink) but is supported in both cases provided the student ID remains constant.
Can the platform provide user accounts for staff members (principals and other admin) who are not assigned students?	✓				
Can passwords be reset without assistance from trained IT staff?	✓				Administrators and educators can facilitate their own password resets on the login screen. Educators can reset passwords for students in their class.
When working offline, does the product automatically sync when a connection is re-established?			✓		Not applicable

## 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 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.

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?	✓				



Is technical support provided during the duration of the contract?	✓				
If utilizing a free or trial version, is technical support provided?	✓				
Are there self-service supports for troubleshooting?	✓				Self-service is primarily available through documentation and cooperation with District and school level administrators
Does technical support include planning for emergency access and district support?			✓		Really Great Reading has disaster and recovery plans for the application as a whole but does not support individual district planning.

## 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 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	LMS Dependent	No	Under Development	
Does the product have a native mobile application?			✓		All RGR online products are browser-based
Is the product browser-based?	✓				

Does the product use responsive design for rendering on smartphones?			✓		We support the use of desktops, laptops and tablets but do not recommend using 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 device (e.g. computer at school and a laptop at home or a smartphone and a laptop)?			✓		All users are limited to using one device at a time. Logging in on a second device will close the session on the first device.

Device Type	Mark box if device is compatible	Oldest operating system/version supported	Newest operating system/version supported	Details
Windows	✓			Indicate if the materials are designed for a specific device type or if they are generally compatible.
Linux				
Windows Tablet	✓			
Apple Laptop/Desktop	✓			
iPhone				
iPad	✓			
Android Phone				
Android Tablet	✓			
Chromebook/Chrome OS	✓			

Amazon Fire OS				
Other E-Reader				
Interactive Whiteboard	✓			Works with current versions

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								
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			X		
Header Point Devices			NA		Has not been tested
Motion/Eye Tracking Devices			NA		Has not been tested
Single Switch Entry Devices			NA		Has not been tested
Braille Readers/ Display Devices			NA		Has not been tested
Closed Captioning	✓				
Alternative Input Devices	✓				
High Color Contrast Display Options	✓				
Translation of Text to Other Languages	✓				
Bilingual Dictionaries available for students			X		
Are there required accessories (headsets, speakers)?	✓				Speakers are required to hear the directions; microphones are required if students complete assessments independently (this is optional)
Multiple Playback of audio/video	✓				

Can students adjust the speed of audio/video playback?			X		
Are these accessibility supports able to be turned on/off?	✓				
Does all browser-based technology satisfy the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines or <a href="#">VPAT</a> ?			X		Really Great Reading is actively working towards compliance with WCAG 2.1AA. A current VPAT is always available on our website.

## 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?	✓			
<b>Data Security:</b> Do the materials refer students to video, content, and other online sources that are not native to the materials?		✓		
<b>Data Security:</b> Does the end-user licensing agreement allow customers to scrape data from the product?		✓		
<b>Privacy:</b> Is personally-identifying student data provided to, generated by, or stored in any systems used by the product?	✓			
<b>Privacy:</b> Does the product/vendor make their student privacy policy publicly available?	✓			

<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.)?	✓			
<b>Privacy:</b> Has a third-party evaluated the product for FERPA compliance?		✓		•
<b>Privacy:</b> 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 product is delivered online. Persistent internet connection is required.
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?	✓			A recommended set of domains is provided to customers for whitelisting.
Does the product support deployment through Mobile Device Management (MDM) systems?		✓		
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?		✓		Our application uses email addresses for usernames and requires that adult users generate their own password with a minimum of 15 characters with mixed case, numbers and special characters.
Is there an option for concurrent user licensing?		✓		

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)		If checked, include where customers can verify this information.
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))		If checked, include where customers can verify this information.

IMS Global (LTI Advantage)		If checked, include where customers can verify this information.
IMS Global (Common Cartridge)		If checked, include where customers can verify this information.
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 1 second
What is the required bandwidth per user?	Videos – minimum connection speed is 256 K/s. Recommended connection speed is 1 M/s.
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?	No, but our success/implementation team supports clients to ensure successful rollouts.
Does the service level agreement include uptime guarantees of at least 95% excluding planned maintenance/down-times?	NA
Does the product require a VPN for off site access?	No

Once this document is complete and ready to submit to EdReports, please fill-out a [Technology Information Document Submission Certification](#) to certify that the information is final and accurate.