LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Teaching and Learning

Technology Readiness Endorsement for Instructional Materials

Problem

In Louisiana, significant progress has been made in adopting technology within K-12 educational environments. The Louisiana Department of Education aims to support this integration by instituting mechanisms to enhance educational quality, ensure robust data security, and strengthen curricular alignment. The recognition and subsequent addressing of this challenge are instrumental for Louisiana's ambition to lead in the realm of educational technology.

Solution

To address the challenges above, the LDOE is committed to instituting a detailed rubric that aims to facilitate an unbiased and transparent evaluation of curriculum providers' technological preparedness. Evaluation categories will include the user-friendliness of the digital portal, compatibility with Student Information Systems (SIS) and Learning Management Systems (LMS), ability to implement single sign-on (SSO), accessibility provisions for students with specialized needs, and the promptness of support services. Engaging with this evaluation framework will be discretionary for publishers during their submission to the Instructional Materials Review (IMR) process. Moreover, materials that have previously achieved a Tier I rating may choose to undergo this technological readiness assessment at their discretion.

Process

The implementation of this review process, although elective for publishers, will leverage the expertise of the LDOE's Teacher Leader Advisors. This esteemed group, comprising professionals skilled in technical domains such as IT and web development alongside those with content-specific training, will oversee the review process. A successful review will culminate in the material being conferred with a "digital endorsement." To earn the tech readiness endorsement, materials must meet all of the criteria in Section I: Non-Negotiable Criteria of Tech Readiness of the rubric and score **30 out of 38 points** within the 13 criteria fields in Section II: Additional Criteria of Tech Readiness. This distinction will subsequently be highlighted by the LDOE in a dedicated column alongside the existing roster of reviewed materials, offering a clear indicator of the material's technological robustness.

Section I: Non-Negotiable Criteria of Tech Readiness

Materials must meet Non-Negotiable Criterion 1 for the review to continue to Non-Negotiable Criteria 2 and 3. Materials must meet all of the Non-Negotiable Criteria 1-3 for the review to continue to Section II.

Criteria	Required Indicators of Quality	Meets Required Indicators (Yes/No)	Justification/Comments
Required Browser	Curriculum does **not** need a specific browser (Internet Explorer, Safari, etc.) to launch.		
Operating System Capability	Operates on both Google, Microsoft, and Apple OS		
Single Sign-On (SSO)	Product is SSO utilizing Google, Clever, Microsoft, or another SSO method; thu,s no external account should be create,d and no personal information is collected and/shared		
Cybersecurity	Has either SOC II or GDPR certification		
Communication	Product monitors and records all communication within the platform and does not allow unsupervised student-to-student communication.		

Section II: Additional Criteria of Tech Readiness

Category	Criteria	Works Well (3)	Minor Concerns (2)	Serious Concerns (1)	Not Applicable	Notes/Evidence
Functionality	LMS Integration	Broad compatibility across all major LMS platforms. Regular updates to ensure	The tool can integrate with several popular LMS platforms, but may have limited	The tool integrates with only one or very few LMS platforms. Integration is not		Select Score ▾

Category	Criteria	Works Well (3)	Minor Concerns (2)	Serious Concerns (1)	Not Applicable	Notes/Evidence
		continuous integration as LMS platforms update. Robust SSO across all integrated LMSs, ensuring a smooth user experience. Intuitive integration that is mostly plug-and-play. Minimal setup required.	features on some. Integration requires some setup, but clear instructions and setup wizards are available to assist users. There Is adequate support for integration issues and some documentation or FAQs are available.	intuitive and requires manual setup. Limited support or documentation on how to integrate with the LMS.		
▾	Scale	Teachers can easily create and manage multiple subgroups within a class. Even when scaled to larger classes or multiple subgroups, teachers can still personalize settings, content, or activities for each student or group. Comprehensive analytics and reporting can be viewed at the class level or drilled down to subgroups or individual students.	The tool can efficiently serve any class size, but there might be some performance drops or limitations when handling very large classes. The tool lacks features to split students into smaller groups or subgroups. Customization features are more general and not detailed. Analytics and reporting are available at the class level, but detailed insights for individual	The tool is restrictive to a set number of users and does not have the ability to be scaled. No capacity to create smaller student groups or subgroups. Very limited to no customization options available. Basic analytics are available or none at all.		Select Score ▾

Category	Criteria	Works Well (3)	Minor Concerns (2)	Serious Concerns (1)	Not Applicable	Notes/Evidence
			students are lacking or not as refined.			
	Ease of Use	The materials are well organized for students and teachers. Content is specifically curated and presented in a manner fitting the cognitive and developmental stage of the targeted grade level. Visual cues, language, and complexity align with student capabilities. Menus, buttons, and interactive elements are prominently displayed and labeled. Icons and descriptions make it clear what each function or section entails. Integrated tooltips, guides, or tutorials are readily available to assist users if they are unsure about any aspect of the	Overall structure is present, but some sections are out of place or disrupt the flow of learning. Teachers and students will need time to familiarize themselves with the layout. While content is organized, it does not match the comprehension or interest level of the targeted grade. Most navigation elements are labeled, but their functions are not immediately evident. Users might occasionally need to experiment to understand certain features. Some guidance is available, but it does not address every feature or challenge the user encounters.	Content appears scattered or jumbled. It is challenging to discern a logical flow, making the learning experience disjointed. Content presentation does not consider the developmental stage of the students. Navigation tools are either absent or not intuitive. Little to no assistance is provided. Users are mostly on their own to figure out the platform's intricacies.		Select Score ▾

Category	Criteria	Works Well (3)	Minor Concerns (2)	Serious Concerns (1)	Not Applicable	Notes/Evidence
		platform.				
Teacher and Staff Support	Data	Teachers and school leaders have granular access to a variety of metrics concerning student performance, interaction history, module completions, and more. Grouping features allow educators to segment students based on various criteria such as performance, interaction frequency, or demographic data. Beyond pre-set groups, educators can create custom groups and subgroups to tailor instruction or interventions. Advanced tools or integrations that allow for visual representation of data, making it easier for educators to identify trends, strengths, or areas of concern. The ability to	Teachers and school leaders can view student interactions with the platform. This might include basic metrics like login frequency, time spent on modules, or quiz scores. Data organization is limited to pre-defined or template groups, restricting the depth of analysis or customization educators can perform. Limited tools or charts that give a snapshot of student performance or interaction, but might lack the depth or flexibility of more advanced platforms. Some capacity to extract or share data, but it might be limited in scope or format.	Essentially no access to meaningful student interaction or performance data. No grouping or organizational features are available, further limiting any potential insights or interventions. Absence of any visual tools or charts to represent student engagement or progress. No features to export or share data insights with other stakeholders.		Select Score ▾

Category	Criteria	Works Well (3)	Minor Concerns (2)	Serious Concerns (1)	Not Applicable	Notes/Evidence
		export data in various formats or share reports with other stakeholders, like parents or educational specialists, for collaborative decision-making is evident.				
	Training Resources	In-depth guides that are regularly updated, covering every feature in detail. Diverse range of materials, including written docs, videos, interactive tutorials, webinars, and hands-on training sessions. Intuitive and user-friendly portal or platform for training. Tailored resources catering to different audiences – beginners, advanced users, tech-reluctant educators, etc.	Comprehensive guides covering most of the tool's features. A mix of formats like written documentation, video tutorials, and few webinars. Training materials are organized in a central location but lack an intuitive structure or search functionality. Some effort to address different user needs and proficiency levels, but lack advanced training or beginner-friendly introductions.	Very basic guides or manuals available. They lack depth, clarity, or are outdated. Resources primarily in one format (e.g., only written documentation) with little to no multimedia or interactive elements. Difficult to locate or access the training materials. Materials do not cater to different learning styles or levels of tech proficiency among educators. Minimal ongoing support for training.		Select Score ▾

Category	Criteria	Works Well (3)	Minor Concerns (2)	Serious Concerns (1)	Not Applicable	Notes/Evidence
	Professional Learning	The platform provides professional learning (PL) resources at no extra charge. The PL offerings cover a broad range of topics, from basic tool functionality to advanced integration strategies in the classroom. The content of the PL is specific to the K-12 setting, ensuring relevance and applicability. It might also be tailored to various roles within the educational institution, such as teachers, school leaders, or IT support. The platform consistently updates its PL resources to reflect tool updates, new pedagogical strategies, or feedback from educators. There are a variety of PL offerings which might	While the platform does offer PL resources, these come at an additional price. Schools or districts would have to budget separately for these offerings. The PL offerings cover essential topics related to the tool but do not delve deeply into advanced strategies or pedagogical integration. The content might be geared towards education but is not focused on the K-12 sector. Updates to PL resources might be less frequent, potentially lagging behind the latest tool functionalities or educational trends. Some interactive PL sessions are less frequent or might come at a premium cost.	The platform itself does not provide any PL resources. Institutions are dependent on third-party vendors.		Select Score ▾

Category	Criteria	Works Well (3)	Minor Concerns (2)	Serious Concerns (1)	Not Applicable	Notes/Evidence
		include interactive workshops, webinars, or peer learning.				
Accessibility	Mobile Functionality	Fully mobile-optimized interface. Feature parity with the desktop or main version. Every necessary tool or option is easily accessible.	Has mobile interface. Most of the essential features are present, but some advanced or supplementary functions are missing.	App/tool is not available on all major mobile platforms (iOS, Android). Might be restricted to web-only or a specific OS.		Select Score ⌄
	Offline Functionality	Full offline functionality and seamless syncing across all platforms and versions.	Limited offline mode, making it difficult for students without consistent internet access. Does not sync seamlessly with desktop or other versions	No offline mode option.		Select Score ⌄
	Additional Required Download	No additional download or extension is required.	Product does not require additional download, but one is recommended for optimal use.	Additional download or extension is required for use.		Select Score ⌄
Administration	Onboarding	Teachers are alerted when an account is created for them.	Teachers are alerted when an account is created, but there is	There is no product onboarding.		Select Score ⌄

Category	Criteria	Works Well (3)	Minor Concerns (2)	Serious Concerns (1)	Not Applicable	Notes/Evidence
		Onboarding includes information on how to log in and how to get started on the platform.	no further information on next steps.			
	Tech Support	Support is consistently available, with a multi-channel approach which may include phone, email, live chat, and a dedicated portal. A comprehensive support platform is in place, containing FAQs, tutorials, guides, and user forums to address common challenges and queries. In the event the platform or initial resources do not resolve an issue, there is a clear, step-by-step protocol guiding users on what to do next, whether it is escalating the issue or using alternative solutions. Support requests are	Technical support is available but is limited to specific channels, like email or a basic support ticket system. There is a support platform with some resources like FAQs or basic guides. While support is available, the path to escalation or next steps is not clear. Users might need to do some trial and error or seek external help. The support team responds to queries, but there might be longer wait times or limited availability during off-hours. Some basic guidance is available for school leaders, but it might not be	Technical support is sparse, with users often left to their own devices. Support is only available during specific hours or days. There is a distinct lack of a dedicated platform or resources for troubleshooting. If any resources exist, they are basic and do not cover a range of issues. No clear guidance on what steps to take if users encounter problems. When support is sought, responses might be slow, generic, or unhelpful. Little to no dedicated resources or guidance for school leaders . The onus is		Select Score ▾

Category	Criteria	Works Well (3)	Minor Concerns (2)	Serious Concerns (1)	Not Applicable	Notes/Evidence
		addressed promptly, ensuring minimal disruptions to the learning process. Feedback loops ensure that recurring issues are identified and addressed at the source. Dedicated resources or training sessions are available for school leaders to help them optimize the tool's setup, management, and troubleshooting at the institutional level.	exhaustive or tailored to the specific challenges of managing the tool at scale in a school environment.	on the institution to figure out the intricacies of the tool and solve problems independently.		
	Reports	Product allows for administrative reports on usage across all sites or classrooms.	Product allows for overall usage reports for all sites but does not allow for drill down data.	Product does not allow school leaders to access data across sites or classrooms.		