



INDIANA  
DEPARTMENT of  
EDUCATION

# 2025-2026 High-Quality Curricular Materials Advisory Lists

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*Vendor Submission Guide*

**Indiana Department of Education**

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Indianapolis, Indiana 46204



## Purpose & Legislation

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High-quality curricular materials are key components to effective and engaging learning experiences for students. In alignment with legislation, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) publishes annual advisory lists to inform the adoption, instructional practices, and professional development relevant to curricular materials aligned with Indiana Academic Standards and Early Learning Standards. Legislative requirements are outlined below.

Pursuant to Indiana Code IC 20-20-5.5-2, IDOE “shall evaluate, approve, and publish a list of high-quality curricular materials for use in the following subjects: (1) Science, (2) Technology, (3) Engineering, (4) Math.”

- Curricular materials can be reproduced in large type, Braille, and audio format in accordance with Sections 612(a)(23)(A) and 674(e)(4) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act 2004 (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.).
- Pursuant to IC 20-30-17-2, the “content of the material does not provide any instruction to a student in prekindergarten through grade three on human sexuality.”
- Pursuant to IC 35-49-2-1, the “content of the material does not contain obscene matter or matter harmful to minors.”
- Pursuant to IC 35-49-2-2, the “content of the material does not contain matter or performance harmful to minors.”

This vendor guide serves to delineate the criteria for a “comprehensive curriculum,” which includes resource(s) that cover each domain of the [Indiana Academic Standards](#) and Next Level Programs of Study (NLPS) course competencies for **4565 Computing Foundations for a Digital World**, an IDOE-approved course identified to fulfill a graduation requirement for students beginning with the 2029 cohort.

## Submission and Review Process

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Content providers of proprietary and open educational resources (OER) aligned to [Indiana Academic Standards](#) and expectations of [Next Level Programs of Study](#) are invited to submit the [letter of intent](#) to inform IDOE of plans to complete the 2025-2026 High-Quality Curricular Materials Advisory Lists Vendor Application. The letter of intent is required to advance in the review process and must be submitted by 11:45 p.m. ET on Friday, August 15. **The application will be shared in August with only those vendors that submit the letter of intent.**

Alignment should primarily focus on content and cognitive complexity. For this evaluation cycle, vendors will submit curricular materials aligned with the following NLPS course **only**:

- **4565 Computing Foundations for a Digital Age**

IDOE is reviewing core curriculum materials for this course only. No other content area or course-specific submissions will be accepted during this evaluation cycle. Reviews of any supplemental (instructional and intervention) materials will be managed by local schools.

The following steps outline the vendor submission process, which requires an independent review by a third-party review entity and a committee review using the vendor evaluation tools. All core/comprehensive curriculum submissions will go through the review process.

## Application Phases

### Submission Phase I: Letter of Intent & Third-Party Evaluation

IDOE requires vendors to submit an electronic [letter of intent](#) to signify their plans to complete the formal application, which IDOE will share with vendors by August 18. Vendors must complete and submit a letter of intent and indicate the number of curricular materials aligned with **4565 Computing Foundations for a Digital Age** that they intend to submit for evaluation. No other content area or course-specific submissions will be accepted during this evaluation cycle. The letter of intent electronic form will be activated and ready for vendor use beginning Friday, August 1.

During this phase, vendors should also initiate an independent third-party review of the curricular materials they plan to submit for IDOE review. Questions regarding the submission process must be included in the letter of intent form or directed to [IDOE](#). Appendix B outlines additional clarification regarding the meaning of an “independent third-party review.” Late submissions will not be accepted.

Vendors’ pre-application steps are outlined here:

- 1) **Vendor completes the [HQCM K-12 STEM Evaluation Tool](#) (focus on criteria for computer science).** List appropriate evidence (e.g., references to specific lessons, standards alignment documents, contextual narrative explanation or corresponding documents) for each rubric criterion in the “Notes/Evidence” column of the evaluation tool (see [example](#)). Only materials submitted to align with **4565 Computing Foundations for a Digital Age** will be accepted for evaluation during this cycle. No other content area or course-specific materials will be accepted during this evaluation cycle.
- 2) **Vendor obtains a review of curricular materials by an independent third-party entity.** Provide the vendor-completed evaluation tool to the external entity for review. Third-party review team members conducting the review must have significant, demonstrated experience in curriculum/standards alignment and evaluation and hold advanced degrees in curriculum and instruction, educational measurement, or a related field. The third-party review team must supply a narrative as evidence of their review. See Appendix B for more details.
- 3) **Vendor addresses third-party reviewer feedback.** Vendors must refine their evaluation tool and compiled evidence as needed based on feedback from the third-party review. Vendors must ensure a logical, numerically-based naming convention for all evidence to ensure clarity for reviewers (see [example](#)). Vendors will include a completed narrative of third-party review findings as part of their formal application.

## Submission Phase II: Initial Submission

Vendors must submit all required information and evidence for **each set of curricular materials** through the formal 2025-2026 High-Quality Curricular Materials Advisory Lists Vendor Application (*coming in August*). This electronic form allows vendors to attach documents (i.e., evidence of alignment to each rubric element) to support their submission. Once submitted, the identified point of contact will receive notification that their submission is in the queue for committee review. Key elements of the application must include:

- **Third-Party Review Evidence**

- Vendor's completed evaluation tool submitted to independent third-party review entity;
- Narrative confirmation from the third-party verifying the results of the review. The narrative should provide evidence of the degree to which the materials are aligned with and measure the breadth and depth of Next Level Programs of Study (NLPS) course competencies for **4565 Computing Foundations for a Digital World** according to the provided evaluation tools.
- Verification of third-party review entity's qualifications including content area expertise.
- Conflict of interest form signed by a representative of the third-party review entity. (IDOE will share this electronic form to vendors along with the vendor application.)
- Summary of updates made to the evaluation tool based on the third-party review.

- **Final Application Form**

Vendors will submit all final pieces of evidence via the electronic application form (IDOE to share with vendors by August 18). The electronic application form will be formatted based on the structure of the evaluation tool and all contents will be utilized by Indiana committees and IDOE content experts:

- Third-party review qualifications and evidence.
- Vendors' evidence (in PDF format) must be linked next to each required element in the evaluation tool (e.g., standards alignment documents, links):
  - Any videos, if applicable, should be in MP4 format.
  - All **student and educator** materials, including any necessary login information, must be provided in digital format.
  - Vendors must ensure a logical, numerically-based naming convention for all evidence to ensure clarity for reviewers (see [example](#)).
  - All evidence and logins must be easily accessible for multiple reviewers.
- Materials submitted for review should be the most current version.

- **Cost Sheet**

- Exact, not-to-exceed standard statewide pricing information for materials using the provided [cost sheet](#) will be included in the application form and will be published publicly upon approval through the curriculum evaluation process. Only



materials submitted to align with NLPS **4565 Computing Foundations for a Digital Age** should be listed on the cost sheet for evaluation during this cycle.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

### **Submission Phase III: Committee Review**

Submissions are examined by committees and IDOE-defined content experts to ensure alignment of submitted materials with all required evaluation criteria. If required information or evidence is missing, vendors will be given one opportunity to submit missing items or information. In such cases, IDOE will provide vendors the corresponding evaluation tool noting areas of insufficient information. Final review decisions by the committee and IDOE leadership will be made upon receipt and review of additional evidence provided. All decisions are final.

### **Submission Phase IV: Notification of Application Status and Publication**

IDOE will notify vendors of final review decisions and any applicable next steps once identified. Names of committee-approved curricular materials, along with publication date, and cost sheets containing exact, not-to-exceed standard statewide pricing information, will be available publicly on IDOE's [High-Quality Curricular Materials Advisory Lists webpage](#) once the review process concludes.

Final results of the committee reviews are organized by content area on IDOE's [High-Quality Curricular Materials Advisory Lists webpage](#). Approved vendor materials will be valid for a period of six years (pending any updates to Indiana Academic Standards, legislation, or rule). Vendors must confirm annually whether changes have been made to IDOE-approved materials following committee reviews, and if so, the specific nature of such changes, using IDOE's Vendor Assurances form.

## **Vendor Application Submission References and Resources**

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### **Evaluation Tool**

- [K-12 STEM](#) (Science, Technology (Computer Science), Engineering, and Mathematics)

### **Templates and Exemplars**

- [Sample Complete Evaluation Tool](#)
- [Cost Sheet](#)
  - Used for establishing exact, not-to-exceed standard statewide pricing

### **Vendor Forms**

- [Letter of Intent](#)
  - Active for vendor use: August 1-15, 2025
- 2025-2026 High-Quality Curricular Materials Advisory Lists Vendor Application will be emailed on or before August 18 to vendors who submit a letter of intent.

**Review Cycle Timeline**

Date	Task/Event
Friday, August 1	Application materials become available. Letter of intent form is active and ready for vendor use.
Friday, August 15	Deadline for interested vendors to submit the <a href="#">letter of intent</a>
Monday, August 18	Vendors who submitted the letter of intent will receive a link for and instructions to complete the official application.
Friday, August 29	Deadline for vendors to submit their completed applications
Friday, October 17	IDOE notifies vendors of initial review status.
Friday, October 31	Deadline for vendors to submit additional materials, if needed
February 2026	IDOE notifies vendors of final review status.

All deadlines must be met by 11:45 p.m. ET. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Contact [IDOE](#) with any questions.

**Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions**

Number	Question	Answer
1	<b>What is the purpose of providing a high-quality curricular materials advisory list?</b>	The review of core/comprehensive curricular materials gives corporations, schools, and early care and education programs information about alignment to the Indiana Academic Standards and Early Learning Standards, as well as various indicators on rigor and best practices. This process supports professionals in making informed decisions regarding instructional materials adoption. Corporations, schools, and early care and education programs can use these reviews to determine which materials are best suited for their local needs.
5	<b>How will partially-aligned content be reviewed?</b>	If committees determine vendor submissions do not meet all criteria, vendors will be given the opportunity to submit missing items. Submitted materials must fully align with all required evaluation criteria.
8	<b>Will the review process impact corporation funding for instructional materials?</b>	No. Corporations have the authority and responsibility to make all purchasing decisions in alignment with Indiana Code. Early care and education programs have the authority and responsibility to make all purchasing decisions in alignment with the quality rating and improvement system.
12	<b>Will educator and student editions be reviewed?</b>	Yes. The submission must be in a digital format. Access to a full online and digital student edition must be made available. Ten (10) accounts must be provided for full access and must be valid through the 2026 calendar year.
13	<b>All documents/ evidence submitted for review are required to be digital. What does this mean?</b>	Digital/electronic versions (open or proprietary) will be reviewed and can be interactive online or provided in PDF format (not paper/ink copies). OER are learning materials that are freely available under a license that allows them to be reused, revised, remixed, and redistributed. See <a href="http://www.oercommons.org">www.oercommons.org</a> for additional information. <i>Proprietary materials are those that are sold.</i>

14	<b>All materials must be submitted electronically for review; however, can other formats be made available to school corporations and early care and education programs?</b>	Yes. Any format (e.g., braille, audio, large print/print, and digital) can be made available for purchase.
15	<b>Is it likely that corporations and early care and education programs will purchase printed versions of these digital materials?</b>	Corporations and early care and education programs may purchase any formats deemed most appropriate for their students.
16	<b>Can digital materials that require specialized software installation be reviewed?</b>	No. The installation of software applications in conjunction with content alignment reviews may present difficulty if system requirements cannot be met. PDF versions are recommended for submission.
17	<b>Will there be any state contracts for titles reviewed? If so, must prices be “locked in” for any specified amount of time?</b>	A state contract will not result from this review. Vendors selected for the list must agree to standard, statewide pricing. Vendors must submit to IDOE any changes to agreed upon pricing.
18	<b>Are publishers allowed to visit schools or early care and education programs and/or send samples?</b>	Arrangements for solicitation should be coordinated through local school corporation officials or early care and education program administrators.



**Appendix B: Independent Third-Party Review**

Each participating vendor must enlist an independent third-party review of the curricular materials prior to submitting the materials for IDOE's review. The third-party review entity must be unbiased and possess content area expertise for the curricular materials which they are reviewing. IDOE provides the following definitions:

Term	Meaning
Independent third-party review	An evaluation of educational materials conducted by an organization or experts not affiliated with the curriculum developer or IDOE to ensure alignment with state standards, academic rigor, and neutrality.
Unbiased	No conflicts of interest exist between the third-party reviewer, the curriculum provider, and/or IDOE allowing for a neutral evaluation of the curricular materials.*
Expert	High degree of demonstrated experience in standards alignment and curriculum evaluation.

\*All vendors must acknowledge no conflicts of interest exist when submitting materials to IDOE.