



High-Quality Curricular Materials Advisory Lists: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Pursuant to Indiana Code ([IC](#)) [20-20-5.5-2](#) and [IC](#) [20-31-3-2\(b\)](#), the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) conducts a curriculum evaluation process whereby reviewers evaluate and recommend vendor-submitted curricular materials to comprise high-quality curricular materials (HQCM) advisory lists. Each advisory list is intended to help schools inform local curriculum adoption, instructional practices, and professional development aligned with the most current Indiana Academic Standards, Early Learning Standards, science of reading practices, College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Learning Objectives, International Baccalaureate's (IB) assessment objectives, Cambridge International's Learning Objectives, and/or Next Level Programs of Study (NLPS) competencies. IDOE developed this FAQ to support schools and vendors. Contact [IDOE](#) with any questions.

General

Number	Question	Answer
1.	What is the purpose of providing a high-quality curricular materials advisory list?	The review of core/comprehensive curricular materials gives corporations, schools, and early care and education programs information about alignment to content expectations (e.g., Indiana Academic Standards, Indiana Assessment Frameworks for Mathematics, rigor, best practices). This process also 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.
2.	What is IDOE's process for evaluating curricular materials?	IDOE convenes reviewers of content-specific professionals with subject area expertise to review submitted vendor materials. These reviewers evaluate curriculum pursuant to the identified evaluation tools for the respective subject area (i.e., early learning, reading, STEM). Core curriculum that is reviewed and approved, based on the evaluation criteria, is included on the HQCM advisory list. All available evaluation tools are located on IDOE's HQCM Advisory List webpage . *Core curriculum is defined as comprehensive materials used for all students during Tier 1 instruction.



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3.	How often does IDOE facilitate the evaluation cycle for each subject area and what is the approximate duration?	IDOE accepts new and updated core curricular submissions for the designated content area (e.g., mathematics) once the application window opens. IDOE typically releases application materials to vendors each summer and publishes approved updates to the advisory lists in late winter/early spring.
4.	What are the grade levels and courses for which vendors may submit curricular materials?	Vendors may submit core curricular materials only for the respective area(s) (i.e., early learning, reading, STEM) in alignment with approved academic standards and pursuant to legislation and as defined by IDOE for a given evaluation cycle. Review IDOE's Standards Revision and Implementation Guidance for details.
5.	Where are the current advisory lists located?	All advisory lists are available on IDOE's HQCM Advisory List webpage .
6.	How long will approved core curricular materials remain on the advisory lists?	Approved vendor curricular materials will be valid for a period of six years pending IDOE's review of any updates to content expectations (e.g., Indiana Academic Standards), vendor pricing structure, legislation, or rule. Vendors must notify IDOE annually of any specific changes to materials and pricing.
7.	Why is the curriculum that our school uses not on the advisory list?	Curriculum will not appear on the advisory list if the associated vendor did not submit materials for review or the materials submitted did not meet all required evaluation criteria.
8.	Will the review process impact corporation funding for instructional materials?	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.
9.	Will there be any state contracts for titles reviewed? If so, must prices be "locked in" for any specified amount of time?	State contracts 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.



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10.	What are “essential” standards and how do they factor into the evaluation of curricular materials?	Approximately 33% of the Indiana Academic Standards for science, technology (computer science), engineering, mathematics, and English/Language Arts (reading) are designated as “essential” for students to master by the end of the grade or applicable course. This designation helps inform educators’ instruction and, when applicable, the blueprints for Indiana’s state assessments (e.g., ILEARN). Essential standards are denoted with an “(E)” at the end of the standard text and highlighted in grey.
11.	Are supplemental curriculum materials included in the review process?	Supplemental materials are not reviewed as part of IDOE’s HQCM evaluation process. Selection of supplemental materials is managed locally and schools should vet materials to assure consistency with the advisory list and alignment with students’ instructional needs, and any applicable state laws.

K-12 STEM

Number	Question	Answer
12.	2026-2027 (K-12 Mathematics): Are vendors required to resubmit already-approved curricular materials for mathematics?	Yes, vendors must resubmit for IDOE’s formal evaluation any previously approved mathematics materials that appear on Indiana’s HQCM advisory list.* Any such mathematics materials not resubmitted during the upcoming evaluation cycle will be removed from IDOE’s advisory list. *Not applicable to curricular materials approved for use with College Board’s AP courses.
13.	Will all STEM subjects continue to share the same evaluation tool?	Recent legislative updates to IC 20-20-5.5-2 require the evaluation of mathematics materials to occur independently of the other three STEM subject areas. In response, IDOE established the 2026-2027 HQCM Evaluation Tool for K-12 Mathematics. IDOE will publish a separate evaluation tool for use with science, technology (computer science), and engineering.



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14.	Are vendors required to show how the scope and sequence of their curriculum aligns to the ILEARN Checkpoints as outlined in the Indiana Assessment Framework for Mathematics?	Yes. Vendors must provide evidence to show: 1. How their curricular materials currently align with grade-specific expectations outlined in the Indiana Assessment Frameworks for Mathematics; and 2. Their detailed plan for how they will support schools in those areas for which misalignment in scope and sequence exist within their materials. *Applicable only to curricular materials submitted for use with Grades 3-8.
15.	Are vendors required to align their instructional and assessment activities and resources to the performance level expectations outlined in the Indiana Assessment Framework for Mathematics?	Yes. Vendors must provide evidence of the current level of alignment of the curricular materials* with the Proficiency Level Descriptors (i.e., learning progressions), ensuring students have the opportunity to learn the full progression and focus mastery on at least the <i>At Proficiency</i> or <i>College Ready</i> performance expectations. Indiana Mathematics Assessment Frameworks, including PLD maps, will be updated by Friday, August 14, due to standard setting activities. Vendor submissions should reflect these updates. *Applicable only to curricular materials submitted for use with Grades K-8, Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry.



K-8 Core Reading

Number	Question	Answer
16.	What grade levels are included in the advisory list for reading?	The current advisory lists for K-5 and 6-8 provides schools with approved core curriculum for kindergarten through grade eight aligned with the 2023 Indiana Academic Standards and science of reading.
17.	What are the reading curriculum requirements for schools?	Pursuant to IC 20-32-8.5-2, schools are required to provide reading instruction that includes a core reading program aligned with the science of reading to all students enrolled in grades K-8. Schools in which, over the course of three consecutive years, <i>fewer than an average of 75% of students achieved a valid passing score on IREAD</i> must use a curriculum approved by IDOE. Pursuant to IC 20-26-12-24.5, a superintendent, advisory committee, or governing body (or the equivalent for a charter school) must adopt reading curriculum or supplemental materials aligned with science of reading targeting reading proficiency. Schools may not adopt curricular or supplemental materials for reading that are based on the three-cueing model.
18.	What does reading curriculum implementation in compliance with the advisory list look like for corporations and schools?	Pursuant to IC 20-32-8.5-2, and SEA 199, schools in which, over the course of three consecutive years, <i>fewer than an average of 75% of students achieved a passing score on IREAD</i> must use a curriculum that is based on science of reading and approved by IDOE. <i>For all other schools</i>, implementation requirements per IC 20-26-12-24.5 begin during their next adoption cycle (2025-2026). Schools that choose to use curriculum not included on the advisory list are responsible for conducting a review to ensure compliance with IC 20-31-3-2(b). School teams are encouraged to use the IDOE developed evaluation tools for K-5 Core Reading and 6-8 Core Reading.



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19.	The reading curriculum we currently use is not on the advisory list. What are the next steps?	Schools that choose to use curriculum not listed on the advisory list are responsible for conducting a review to ensure compliance with IC 20-31-3-2(b) . Schools in which, over the course of three consecutive years, <i>fewer than an average of 75% of students achieved a valid passing score on IREAD</i> must use a curriculum that is based on science of reading and approved by IDOE.
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Early Learning

Number	Question	Answer
20.	What age-level curricula are included in the advisory list?	The advisory list provides early care and education settings with approved curricular materials for infant, toddler, preschool, and mixed-age groups aligned with the 2023 Indiana Early Learning Standards.