

Top 5 ways

PRINCIPALS AND DISTRICT LEADERS CAN SUPPORT TEACHERS IN CHOOSING CLASSROOM MATERIALS

The 74 recently conducted a survey of middle and high school teachers through the American Instructional Resources Survey (AIRS) Project and learned that the most valued instructional materials must be:



1

PRIORITIZE THE THREE CHARACTERISTICS

Consider **engagement**, **appropriateness** of challenge, and **usability** when helping to select materials.

Engaging

Appropriately Challenging for Students

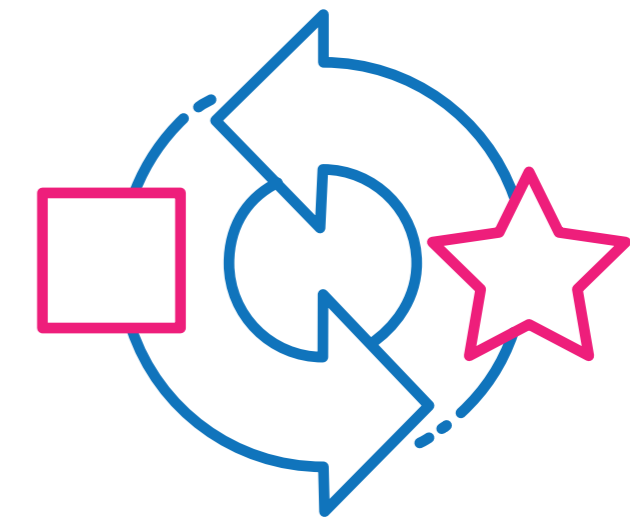
Easy to Use for Teachers



4

PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON HOW TEACHERS CAN SUPPLEMENT AND MODIFY REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED MATERIALS SO THEY ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL STUDENTS

This can be done through professional development. Schools and districts can develop guidelines to help teachers find or modify high-quality supplemental materials while ensuring academic rigor. Teaching coaches can provide guidance on differentiation.



5

FIND MATERIALS THAT INVITE MODIFICATION

Finding easily editable materials for your teaching staff can lessen the time they need to spend on this task. Of course, online accessibility right now is especially important: While teachers prefer easily accessible digital materials in the time of school shutdowns, they may also need to know whether all of their students have secure, reliable technological devices and network access.



2

ELICIT TEACHER INPUT

Teachers usually know what they want and need for their students, so include them in materials previews or piloting.



3

REMEMBER THAT DIVERSITY CAN SUPPORT STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

How well do the materials address diverse students' interests and experiences? Consider developing a library or list of supplemental materials that are connected to students' interests and cultural backgrounds and, if needed, find ways to support teachers in integrating content that students identify with.

Source: Elaine L. Wang, "Analysis: Choosing Classroom Materials Is Complicated. Here's What Principals and District Leaders Can Do to Support Teachers" The74, 2021.