

## What Are High-Quality Instructional Materials?

So, what puts the “high-quality” in HQIM? EdReports, a leading independent non-profit led by educators who review educational resources, considers two primary criteria:

- It aligns with college-level and career-ready standards
- It’s easy to use for teachers and students

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) adds that HQIM are meaningful, affirming, and grade-level appropriate.

What’s wrapped up in the term “instructional materials?” That’s a large umbrella that covers everything from textbooks to digital media, lectures, readings, and more.

## Quality over Quantity

The recent focus on HQIM springs from a growing body of research that ties the quality of learning materials to better outcomes—from boosting student learning to supporting students who are under-resourced.

Textbooks are part of the HQIM equation, but they aren’t in and of themselves a curriculum. In searching for other materials to use in class, teachers spend an average of 12 hours per week looking for instructional resources from external organizations or creating them themselves. 90% of teachers rely on Google for at least some of their materials.

Digging into their own numbers, EdReports found just 41% of math materials and 52% of English Language Arts (ELA) materials met expectations for standards alignment.

## Not Just a Trend

There’s growing support for HQIM that aligns with standards, curriculums, and learning goals. For example, The CCSSO Instructional Materials and Professional Development Network now supports 12 U.S. states as their districts adopt HQIM.

Teachers champion HQIM too. In fact, teachers ranked access to high-quality instructional materials as a top funding priority, above higher salaries, and on par with hiring additional staff.

## Teacher and Student Benefits

Teachers are under a lot of pressure to find instructional resources. HQIM saves teachers the time and hassle of finding, creating, and evaluating their materials. They know, with confidence, that the materials align with the curriculum, and have been thoroughly vetted.

Students benefit from accessing HQIM in two significant ways:

- Gains in student achievement
- Narrowing the learning gaps between students

<https://www.edreports.org/>

<https://learning.ccsso.org/high-quality-instructional-materials>

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