

## RECOMMENDED HIGH-QUALITY CURRICULA: DETAILED SUMMARY FOR CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS

In Opportunity Culture schools, providing high-quality, standards-aligned, differentiation-ready curricula with fully aligned lesson plans saves multi-classroom leaders and teachers planning time. This frees time for teachers to innovate to engage students, practice lesson delivery, review student data, and adapt instruction to meet the needs of all students. High-quality curricula also deepen teachers’ content knowledge, which leads to increased gains in student learning.

**Our recommended curricula are all closely aligned to college- and career-ready standards**, either Common Core State Standards (CCSS) or similar high standards that develop students’ thinking skills, regardless of where they begin. Recommendations are summarized in the table below. For an easy-to-communicate version with this first page only, see [Recommended High-Quality Curricula: Leadership Summary](#).

Recommended Curriculum <sup>1</sup>	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Free? <sup>2</sup>
<b>ELA</b>															
Core Knowledge Lang. Arts (Amplify)															Yes, limited
EL Education															Yes
American Reading Company Core															No
Match Fishtank*															Yes
<b>Math</b>															
Bridges in Mathematics															No
Zearn															No
Eureka Math (Great Minds)															Yes
Match Fishtank*															Yes
Illustrative Mathematics (LearnZillion)															Yes
Agile Mind															No
<b>Science</b>															
Amplify Science															No
Match Fishtank* <i>integrated with social studies</i>															Yes
PhD Science (Great Minds)															No
Summit Learning*															Yes, limited
<b>Social Studies (SS)</b>															
The DBQ Project & Mini Q’s															No
The Choices Program (Brown Univ.)															No

\*Indicates the curriculum is not yet independently reviewed; preliminary analysis was conducted by Public Impact using the publicly available rubrics from these independent rating system reviews.

<sup>1</sup> Recommended curricula are high-quality based on an analysis conducted in December 2018 of reviews in independent public rating systems, including [EdReports](#), [Louisiana Department of Education’s annotated reviews](#), and [California State Board of Education’s science publishers aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards](#). For ELA elementary curricula, they also use a research-based, structured phonics approach.

<sup>2</sup> Free resources are also known as open education resources (OERs) and, while available to download and use at no cost, the cost of printing and purchasing class materials to use with the curriculum may increase costs. For more information on cost, please see the detailed tables.

*The Opportunity Culture Connect Series connects research with educators in practical, short summaries.*

## Detailed Tables by:

- \* Elementary/Middle
- \* High School/Middle

## Additional Tools:

- \* **Tools for educators** on selecting high-quality curriculum that meet your district and schools' needs (e.g., rubrics, guidance, brief articles)

Curriculum Recommendations: Elementary/Middle				
Subject/ Grades	Curriculum	Special Notes	Differentiation Options <sup>1</sup>	Free or estimated costs <sup>2</sup>
<b>ELA</b> * PreK * K-2 * 3-5 * 6-8	<b>Core Knowledge Language Arts / Amplify ELA 6-8</b> (Amplify)	Builds students' vocabulary and deep content knowledge in literature, world and American history, and sciences  Texts designed to be phonetically controlled and engaging	Supplemental Amplify CKLA skills reinforces phonics  Supplemental Amplify Reading 6–8 supports struggling readers through high-interest graphic novels	<b>Limited free instructional materials</b> for pre-K–3 and some 4–5 and on <b>UnboundEd</b>  Partners with <b>Amplify</b> to purchase all materials  <b>Estimated costs</b>
<b>ELA</b> * K-5 * 6-8	<b>EL Education</b>	Uses parallel texts on the same topic, one phonetically controlled for independent study and the other complex for read-aloud; helps to build decoding skills and boost background knowledge  Includes life science modules and supplemental social studies curriculum for 6 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> grade  Incorporates social and emotional learning	Uses a “skills block” of 40–45 minutes of differentiated small-group instruction  Incorporates Universal Design for Learning (UDL)  Built-in supports for English language learners and corresponding guidance documents	Limited free instructional materials  <b>Partners with Open Up Resources</b> to purchase trade books, printed materials, and recommended texts: <b>Estimated costs</b>
<b>ELA, Social Studies &amp; Science</b> * 1–5 <sup>3</sup>	<b>Match Fishtank</b>	Integrates both social studies and science into reading and writing aligned to CCSS; <i>useful for limited time available in the schedule</i>  Exposes students to informational texts, building knowledge and vocabulary, discussion, and project-based learning	Incorporated within unit lesson plans	<b>Free instructional materials</b> with links to how to purchase corresponding books

## Curriculum Recommendations: Elementary/Middle

Subject/ Grades	Curriculum	Special Notes	Differentiation Options <sup>1</sup>	Free or estimated costs <sup>2</sup>
<b>Math</b> * PreK-8	<b>Bridges in Mathematics</b> (The Math Learning Center)	Uses direct instruction, structured investigation, and open exploration	Supplemental K–5 program, Numbers Corner, is an intervention program designed for tier 2 environments in the RTI framework	<b>Estimated costs</b>
<b>Math</b> * K-8	<b>Zearn</b>	Online math curriculum best used in a personalized rotational model  Students work through digital content at their own pace and through targeted lessons with their teacher and peers	Built on the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework	<b>Estimated costs</b>  Requires hardware costs to support technology
<b>Math</b> * 6–8	<b>Illustrative Mathematics</b> (LearnZillion)	Problem- and discussion-based curriculum  Incorporates digital formative assessments	Uses Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework with embedded supports  Extensions for students who are ready	<b>Estimated costs</b> (for printed materials)  <b>Curriculum available here</b> at no cost, some items require subscription
<b>Math</b> * K–5 * 6–8 * 9–12	<b>Eureka Math</b> (Great Minds)	Available in print and digital, including a digital assessment and practice tool and videos to guide professional development	Spanish language editions available for K–5  Student workbooks available to guide differentiation	<b>Free instructional materials</b> upon request for basic curriculum  <b>Estimated costs</b> associated with digital suite and printed workbooks
<b>Science</b> * K–8	<b>Amplify Science</b>	Blends digital tools, hands-on experiments, and integrated literacy and writing lessons  Based on research from UC-Berkeley on the ‘do-talk-read-write-visualize’ approach  <i>Currently under review in EdReports, but on the California science publisher list</i>	<i>Follow up with provider for more information</i>	Estimated costs unknown
<b>Science</b> * 3–5	<b>PhD Science</b> (Great Minds)	4 <sup>th</sup> -grade curriculum meets Louisiana’s tier 1 criteria for high-quality; currently piloting grades 3 and 5 which are not yet reviewed	<i>Follow up with provider for more information</i>	Estimated costs unknown
<b>Social Studies</b> * 4–5 * 6–8 * 9–12	<b>The DBQ Project &amp; Mini Q’s</b>	Uses document-based questioning (DBQ) and shorter mini-questioning units that can span grade levels and courses	<i>Follow up with provider for more information</i>	<b>Estimated costs</b> for both digital and print

## Curriculum Recommendations: High School/Middle School

Subject/ Grades	Curriculum	Special Notes	Differentiation Options <sup>1</sup>	Free or Estimated costs <sup>2</sup>
ELA	<b>American Reading Company: ARC Core</b>	Only high-quality rated ELA curriculum available for all grades, also has K–2, 3–5, 6–8	Small-group lessons available	<b>Estimated costs and additional costs</b>
ELA	<b>Match Fishtank</b>	9–10 and American Literature and world literature; also has K–8  <i>Currently under review in EdReports</i>	Incorporated within unit lesson plans	<b>Free instructional materials</b>
Math	<b>Agile Mind</b>	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II; intensified Math I and Intensified Algebra; Precalculus; AP Calculus; AP Statistics also has 6–8	<i>Follow up with provider for more information</i>	<b>Estimated costs</b>
Math	<b>Match Fishtank</b>	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II; also has 3–8  <i>Currently under review in EdReports</i>	Incorporated within unit lesson plans	<b>Free instructional materials</b>
Social Studies	<b>The Choices Program</b> (Brown University)	World Geography, Civics, U.S. History, World History (integrated)	<i>Follow up with provider for more information</i>	<b>Estimated costs</b> for both digital and print
Social Studies	<b>The DBQ Project &amp; Mini Q's</b>	American History, World History, Civics, Geography, Economics, Literature (aligned to CCSS); also has 4–5, 6–8	<i>Follow up with provider for more information</i>	<b>Estimated costs</b> for both digital and print
Science <sup>4</sup>	<b>Summit Learning</b>	Biology, The Living Earth, Physics, Chemistry, AP Environment; also has 4–8 and other subjects	<i>Follow up with provider for more information</i>	<b>Free instructional materials (limited)</b> , additional digital access available at cost

## Additional Tools:

### Support for curriculum implementation:

- \* Curriculum Support Guide from Instructional Partners provides a framework districts can use to guide the selection and implementation of high-quality curricula to help teachers get great results for students.  
<https://curriculumsupport.org/>

### Independent public rating systems of curriculum:

- \* ELA, math, all grades: EdReports. <https://www.edreports.org>
- \* ELA, math, science, social studies, all grades: Louisiana Department of Education's annotated reviews.  
<https://www.louisianabelieves.com/academics/ONLINE-INSTRUCTIONAL-MATERIALS-REVIEWS/curricular-resources-annotated-reviews>
- \* Science, elementary and middle: California State Board of Education review of science publishers aligned to their science framework/Next Generation Science Standards.  
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/sc/im/adoptedsciprograms2018.asp>

### Rubrics educators can use for evaluating curriculum to determine alignment with high standards:

- \* Math, ELA, all grades: Instructional Materials Evaluation Tool, Student Achievement Partners.  
<https://achievethecore.org/page/1946/instructional-materials-evaluation-tool>
- \* Math, ELA, science, all grades: Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products (EQuIP), Achieve.  
<https://www.achievethecore.org/our-initiatives/equip/equip>
- \* Science, all grades: Primary Evaluation of Essential Criteria for Next Generation Science Standards Instructional Materials Design. <https://www.nextgenscience.org/peec>

### Guidance for educators to understand standards-aligned content, differentiate, and enhance instruction:

- \* Math, ELA, all grades: UnboundEd Content Guides. To help educators understand and teach high academic standards and differentiation strategies using a subset of the highest-priority standards, with examples from high-quality curriculum that are available for free as open-education resources (OERs). Educators can also download these free, OER curriculum from their website. [https://www.unbounded.org/enhance\\_instruction](https://www.unbounded.org/enhance_instruction)
- \* Math, ELA, all grades: Student Achievement Partners, Achieve the Core including Instructional Practice Guides, content guides, and standards-aligned lessons. To help educators understand and teach the shifts to common core state standards. <https://achievethecore.org/>

### More reading:

- \* Why a Structured Phonics Program is Effective (2017), Achieve the Core, Student Achievement Partners.  
<https://achievethecore.org/aligned/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Why-a-Structured-Phonics-Program-is-Effective.pdf>
- \* Curriculum Reform in the Nation's Largest School Districts (2018). Center for American Progress.  
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education-k-12/reports/2018/08/29/454705/curriculum-reform-nations-largest-school-districts/>.

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<sup>1</sup> Information about curricula differentiation of instruction for students at various levels of prior achievement is limited; we welcome additional input about this aspect of curricula. Contact us at [info@publicimpact.com](mailto:info@publicimpact.com) with your input.

<sup>2</sup> The listing of estimated costs by curriculum, if available, is based on curricular websites and/or the current version (December 2018) of the Louisiana Department of Education's contract price list. For the full estimated contract price list please go to: <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/curricular-resources>

<sup>3</sup> As of January 2019, Match Fishtank ELA grades 3-5 was determined high-quality in all areas except for usability; however, the additional grades have not yet been reviewed by an independent public rating system.

<sup>4</sup> High school science recommendations are limited, based on research and reviews conducted to date (December 2018).