LEARNINGlist.com

Learning List's Features and Methodology

Goal of Service	Empower educators to *choose* and *use* instructional materials more effectively to improve student performance. Help publishers create materials that are better aligned to state standards.
Purpose of Reviews	Provide independent reviews of a broad range of instructional materials to help: • Educators select cost-effective, standards-aligned materials with the features and functionality their students need; • Educators integrate their instructional materials into the curriculum effectively; and, • Publishers produce standards-aligned instructional materials that support teachers in preparing their students for academic success.
Cost to educators/publishers	Annual subscription service. Campus/district subscription rates are based on student enrollment, starting at $1/student and *decreasing* as enrollment increases. No charge to publishers for reviewing materials.
Subjects Reviewed	Math, ELAR, Science and Social Studies
Grade Levels Reviewed	Pre-K-12 materials
Standards Reviewed	Standards Agnostic: Reviews materials aligned to the CCSS, AP, and state-specific standards such as the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Reviews of NGSS-aligned materials will be added this summer. Reviews both English and Spanish versions.
Types of Materials Reviewed	Comprehensive and supplemental instructional materials, including open-educational resources. Criterion-referenced assessment materials will be added in spring 2015.
Number of Materials Reviewed	Over 800 materials
Method for Selecting Products for Review	Subscribers request reviews of materials in the four core subjects (including open-educational resources); major and specialty publishers may submit materials for review on an ongoing basis.
Reviewer's Credentials	Learning List's subject matter experts (SMEs) are highly qualified educators with a deep understanding of and *current experience* teaching the standards of the products they review. Reviewers must be: • Current (or *recently* retired) teachers with at least five years of teaching experience (avg. 17 years of teaching experience); • Must be certified in the grade/subject of the materials they review (over 70% have a master's or doctorate in education and almost 50% are ESL certified); • They must have prior alignment or curriculum development experience; and, • They cannot have worked for a publisher for at least two years prior to joining Learning List's team and while working for Learning List.
Training for Reviewers	• Prior to beginning reviews, SMEs watch training videos and read background materials on the relevant standards. • Director of Alignment provides personalized training for each SME, reviewing key points about the standards and Learning List's methodology; SMEs receive detailed guidance to ensure consistency in review process. • First-time SMEs are given a limited assignment; if Dir. of Alignment agrees with SME's alignment decisions, SME completes the review. • Dir. of Alignment provides individualized feedback to SMEs after each step in review process.

Outcome of Reviews Process	Learning List features three types of independent reviews to provide multiple perspectives about each material: (1) a **detailed alignment report** verifying the material's alignment to each standard and a calculation of the alignment percentage (percentage of the standards to which the material is aligned); (2) an **editorial review** assessing the material's instructional content and design for rigor, coherence, focus and many other qualitative attributes; and, (3) **educator ratings and reviews** on specified criteria.
Definition of "Alignment"	Learning List verifies the alignment of the citations (e.g., page numbers, videos, lesson titles) listed in the publisher's correlation, producing a detailed report identifying the citations that *are* and *are not* aligned to each standard. A citation is considered to be "aligned" to the standard only if it addresses the *content*, *context*, and *cognitive demand* of the standard.
Review Methodology	*All products are reviewed against the same criteria for each review.* **Alignment Reports**: The publisher's correlation is reviewed sequentially by at least two SMEs. Learning List's Director of Alignment checks the alignment report produced by each SME, arbitrating differences of opinion between the SMEs and bringing in a third SME when necessary. Quality-assurance protocols help ensure consistency of alignment decisions across grade levels. The publisher is given a week to preview and respond to the alignment report. Learning List calculates the percentage of standards to which the material is aligned. **Editorial Reviews**: Learning List editorial review protocol includes criteria drawn from rubrics for assessing instructional materials, research on high quality curriculum design, and state adoption processes. The reviews include feedback from interviews with customers who have personally used the materials with students and Learning List's subject matter experts. Learning List's Director of Editorial Review goes through the teacher and student editions to verify the feedback gathered and aggregate the information into a coherent and consistently formatted. **Educator Ratings and Reviews**: Educators may rate and review materials on specified criteria; Learning List authenticates the ratings/reviews to ensure they are submitted by educators and do not contain defamatory or libelous remarks about the product.
Tools	Tools on the site allow subscribers to identify, compare and share opinions about instructional materials. Tools allow subscribers to: • *Search* and *sort* reviews to identify products with the features and functionality their students need; • Find *"Fill-in-the-Gap" materials* if a single product is not aligned to 100% of the standards. • Assess a material's *vertical alignment* across multiple grade levels; • *Collaborate* more easily in the review process; • *Compare* multiple products on customizable criteria; and • Develop a *customizable data dashboard* to take to the school board.