

Delaware

High Quality Instructional Materials



Delaware is one of the most rigorous states when it comes to finding High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) for its students.

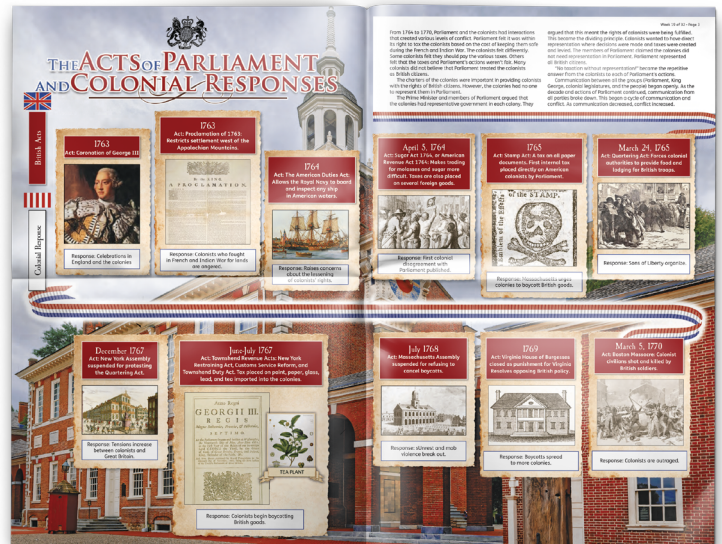
This is important because a huge part of national success is educating each generation well. A nation-wide survey showed that teachers spend 7-12 hours a week online to find instructional material.¹ This indicates the investment of our teachers. The reason they do these things is because they want to meet the unique needs of their students. However, there are difficulties with this approach. First, the quality of online materials is uneven. Second, it takes a lot of our teachers' time. They could spend this time more effectively by tuning in to their students and helping them engage with high quality material.

Delaware has robust criteria for what constitutes HQIM. According to Delaware's Overview of High Quality Instructional Materials, approved instructional material needs to:

1. Include a full year's worth of teacher materials (e.g., syllabi, lesson plans) and student materials (e.g., books, assignments, tests) that support student mastery of grade-level material.
2. [Be] fully aligned to Delaware's standards for what students should know and be able to do at the end of each school year.
3. [Achieve] a "green" rating on EdReports—a nationally recognized non-profit organization that reviews and rates instructional materials—indicating that the materials reflect evidence-based research on good instruction.²

As criterion 1 indicates, curricula that have a full year's worth of materials are likely to have layered in the knowledge students need, presenting it first in its simple form and then adding to it. A unified and engaging design across all materials also helps both students and teachers to learn where to find information.

The Studies Weekly student edition is a year-long colorful, newspaper-style consumable that can be sent home each week or can be highlighted, and cut and glued into interactive notebooks. Each week contains articles and other content, including rich images and graphics to support student understanding of the content.



Detail from Studies Weekly: Our Nation, Week 19

While the student editions provide engaging and explicit standards coverage, even more value can be found in the Teacher's Edition. This guide provides teaching material and strategies for each article or activity from the student edition, including background knowledge, vocabulary words,

Activity 6
Plan Your Own Investigation

Plan your own investigation. Choose an object you will investigate and answer the following:

Investigative Question
How do balanced and unbalanced forces affect the motion of _____?

Describe the investigation: _____

Variable: _____

What are you going to measure and how will you measure it?

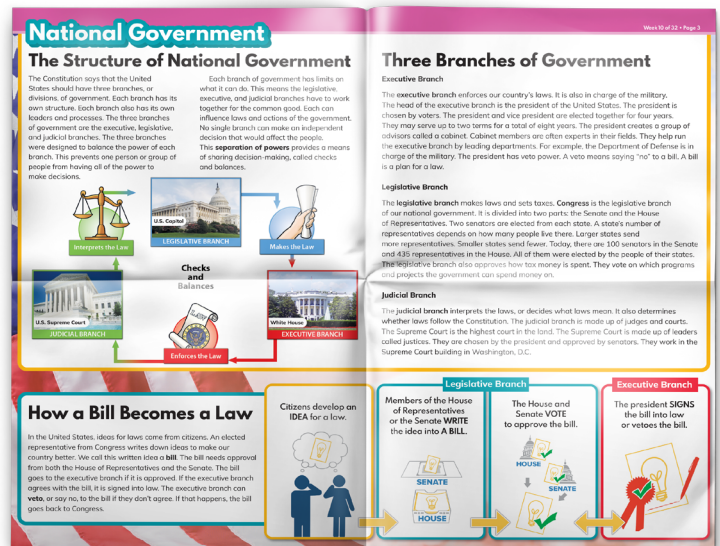
Trial	1	2	3	4
Describe the Force				
Measured Movement				

Explore Science: Grade 3 Week 8

lesson plans, classroom activities, reteaching strategies, ELA connections, assessments, literature connections and even videos. These resources provide flexible paths so that there is a full year of materials with additional libraries of articles and media to access for enrichment and differentiation.

The second criterion is, of course, the core of HQIM. Delaware's civics standards increase in complexity from grade to grade. One third-grade Civics standard begins with the simple fact that many American leaders are chosen by election. Studies Weekly covers this standard in five articles, which gives plenty of chances for reteaching and shoring up learning in the students' knowledge matrix. Fourth and fifth grade build on the original third-grade concept by introducing the branches of government. And, again, Studies Weekly covers those additions over four articles in fourth grade and five articles in fifth grade. This vertical alignment ensures

that students review and extend concepts for long-term learning and transfer. Studies Weekly provides standards correlation documents within Studies Weekly Online in the Teacher Resources section.



Studies Weekly: Our Community, Week 10

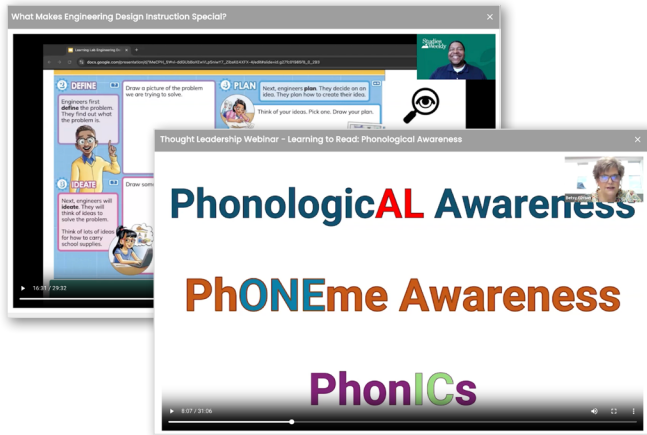
Criterion 3 is on the cusp of being relevant to social studies with EdReports announcing in December 2023 that it is starting to develop its social studies schema. In the meantime, social studies curricula should be able to provide evidence-based research to support their claims to effectiveness. Studies Weekly bases its pedagogical approach on the work of John Hattie, John Lee and Kathy Swan, Tim Shanahan, Dough Fisher and Nancy Frey, Heggerty, Louisa Moats and Carol Tolman (LETRS), and other researchers who have proven results in general pedagogical impact, domain-specific pedagogy, and reading pedagogy.

Professional development is key to the success of any program, and any teacher for that matter. While Studies Weekly provides a

wide array of paid professional development opportunities, the Training and Resources area of the online platform includes an incredible library of videos and resources to help teachers onboard, grow, evolve, and thrive. Whether learning about NGSS and

riculum-guide.

²"Overview of High Quality Instructional Materials," Delaware Department of Education, https://education.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/digital_de/de-delivers-hqim-overview.pdf.



Training and Resources in Studies Weekly's online platform.

3-dimensional learning, ideas to support students in developing grit and a growth mindset, or how to incorporate English language arts strategies into any content area, the training and resources materials included in the subscription help teachers thrive every step of the way.

Whether supporting students or teachers, Studies Weekly gives the teacher an abundance of high quality materials to work with as teachers increase their own education and strive to use sustaining practices to reach all their students.

¹"From Vision to Practice: A Comprehensive Guide to High Quality Instructional Materials," Education Elements, <https://www.edelements.com/comprehensive-hqim-cur>