

Most districts use free online or open-source instructional materials to supplement, modify, or even replace existing textbooks and curricula.

For more of *The Center's CA Insights* on INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, visit us at [TheCenter.WestEd.org/instructional-materials](http://TheCenter.WestEd.org/instructional-materials).

Instructional materials play an essential part in linking strong instructional practice with the knowledge and skills expectations of the California State Standards. Districts must make important decisions regarding which materials are best aligned to the rigors of the standards. In this domain, we hear from district leaders, principals, and teacher leaders on how the complex process of instructional materials adoption continues to unfold in California schools.

### HOW DISTRICTS USE OPEN-SOURCE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Established open educational resources are considered by some districts to be a high-quality and reliable option, compared to unregulated online resources that have not been vetted by a third party.



"We love the things we got from Engage New York, as well as Georgia [Department of Education]. I think **that will probably be our starting place.** I don't know, we may find something different.

But we're **not purchasing any other programs.**"

- District Leader



In some cases, existing materials from previous textbook adoptions are being repurposed, but they need plenty of modifications.



"Our teachers did not have a strong feeling of liking one of the adoptions, and so we chose to continue using our old text but modifying it and adding in a lot of online materials and other pieces that [the teachers] find from other places and from our teacher-created materials."

- District Leader

Even new materials that claim to be aligned to the standards may need modification to suit instructional needs.



"Overall, I think the ELA materials and the math materials that were created [by vendors] have been good. We've been pleased with them. [But,]

**you always have to supplement with something.**"

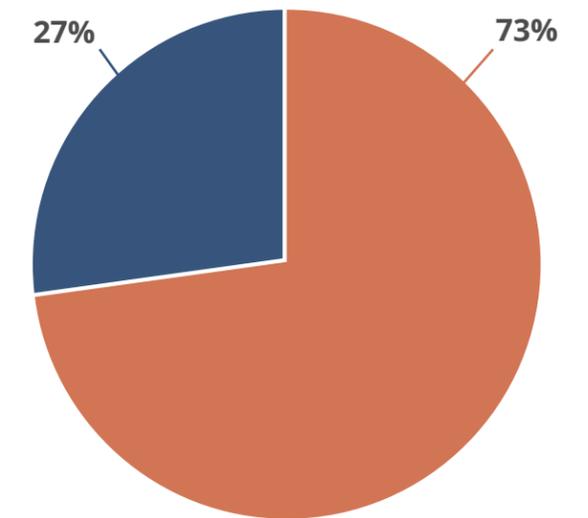
- District Leader



"We have to really look at our curriculum with critical eyes, identify its gaps. Make sure that we're bringing in other things, and we're aligned to the rigor that's required of the standards."

- District Leader

### DOES YOUR DISTRICT USE FREE ONLINE OR OPEN-SOURCE MATERIALS?



● Yes ● No

N=30 Source: 2017 District Interviews



"I have to tell my teachers not to go so crazy sometimes on Pinterest because there is so [much material]. It is great for classroom environments, but pull back."

- Principal on free online materials

