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21st Century Learning Systems

An Overview of Publisher-Developed Instructional Programs

Today publishers produce *comprehensive learning systems* delivered in both print and electronic media. The programs are based on scientific research and they include pedagogical approaches and instructional strategies to help *all* students learn and meet state standards.

An Integrated, Comprehensive Approach

These comprehensive learning systems are designed to enable classroom teachers to *teach, assess, diagnose* and *prescribe* solutions for all kinds of learners. Publishers invest significant resources to develop the systems so that they have the necessary instructional content, structure, scope, sequence, and standards alignment.

Teach → Assess → Diagnose → Prescribe

Key components of each system, which are available in print but also increasingly include online resources for student and teacher, are instructional materials for the student, teacher productivity tools, professional development, and assessment activities. These comprehensive programs now often include materials that formerly would have been purchased as extra “supplemental” materials. In the last several years, spending on supplemental materials (AAP data) has declined as a result of the comprehensive nature of the core programs.

Meeting the Needs of All Learners

Publishers work closely with states and district educators to develop learning systems that address the full range of students in today’s classrooms. Specific attention is given to the needs of English learners, special education students, students with learning difficulties, and advanced learners. These expanded programs have replaced some of the extra material that used to be purchased to support these students.

More Support for Teachers

Publisher-developed learning systems include extensive resources to support the work of teachers. They are core resources developed as part of the program and part of the investment that publishers put into the comprehensive systems. They help the teacher deliver the program to all kinds of learners. For example:

A Nickel a Day

Publisher-developed instructional systems are usually priced and sold in their entirety – not as piecemeal components. The cost per student is typically advertised and priced as the “student edition.” However, the student edition is actually much more than the student edition itself. It includes many necessary program components to support both the teacher and student. In “adoption” states such as Texas or California, the student edition is used for six years. In the case of a \$55 4th grade reading/language arts edition, that works out to \$9.16 per year or just a *nickel* per instructional day.

- Online and print teachers' edition and drag and drop lesson plans, calendar tools. subject-area background material for professional development.
- Practice and enrichment workbooks, study guides, hands-on activities, lab manuals, primary source readings.
- Online and print practice quizzes and tests and benchmark assessments.
- On site and online professional development for teachers and administrators. including extensive training days at school sites and other venues.

Use of New Technologies & Learning Materials

Technology and digital content play increasingly important roles in publisher-developed instructional systems. For example:

- Dedicated websites to support the student textbook.
- Electronic lessons plans correlated to state standards.
- Links to digital support materials.
- Online formative assessment with instructional support.
- Standalone DVDs, CDs, audio files.
- Online tutoring and test bank.
- Teacher presentation support including whiteboards.

Learn more about the important work of school publishers by visiting www.aapschool.org

About the AAP School Division:

The AAP School Division represents the nation's leading developers of instructional materials, technology-based curricula, and assessments. As leaders in education, AAP School Division members create instructional solutions that help students, teachers, and school succeed. The Division focuses its work on behalf of members, students, and educators in several key areas: ensuring access to instructional materials, increasing funding for all types of instructional materials, and fostering a fair, competitive, and robust market for all education publishers

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