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## Alabama 2026 Instructional Materials Review Rubric Guidance

Successful completion of the Alabama **Instructional Material Rubric** is a critical part of the adoption process. Because publishers don't have an opportunity to provide formal, line-by-line citations or responses for each rubric question, reviewers are left to locate relevant content on their own.

Therefore, CompuScholar is pleased to provide the following guidance for each rubric item to clarify **how we meet each requirement**. The enclosed notes apply to all submitted courses.

<b>SECTION 1: NON-NEGOTIABLES</b>	
<b>Requirement</b>	<b>CompuScholar Guidance</b>
1. Instructional materials submitted must be aligned to the 2025 Alabama Courses of Study: Digital Literacy and Computer Science Grades K-12.	Yes, see submitted HQIM review forms.
2. Instructional materials must be shipped to all library sites. Materials to ship for traditional programs are one student textbook and one student module (kit-based program). Materials for technology-based programs should consist of one copy of student material.	Yes, online access instructions for students were printed and mailed to each library site.
3. Instructional materials must be available for review online or in a digital format, when applicable.	Yes, all materials are available for review online.
4. Username(s) and password(s) must be created and active for online access by reviewers throughout the state adoption process.	Yes, see the submitted review accounts.
5. Alternate username(s) and password(s) must be created and active for online access at the identified public library sites.	Yes, see the student online access instructions mailed to libraries.

### **SECTION 2: ALIGNMENT TO ALABAMA STANDARDS**

CompuScholar's courses meet 100% of Alabama's DLCS standards. See the submitted HQIM review forms, and alignments are also posted to <https://www.compuscholar.com/alabama>.



## SECTION 3: CLASSROOM APPLICATION

Content	CompuScholar Guidance
<b>Alignment with curriculum - 1.</b> The materials are adaptable and useful for classroom instruction.	CompuScholar's materials are used as primary classroom resources in many states, including Alabama. They can be flexibly deployed in a variety of classroom situations (traditional face-to-face, flipped, hybrid) and support integrations into 3rd-party Learning Management Systems, Clever, ClassLink, etc.
<b>Level of Treatment - 2.</b> The content is developmentally appropriate for the age of the students, student ability and level of language acquisition.	CompuScholar's courses are age-appropriate, assume no prior technical knowledge, and contain step-by-step guidance to build all required skills. Vocabulary assistance is provided in each lesson.
<b>Level of Treatment - 3.</b> The curriculum provides guidance for teachers on differentiating instruction.	CompuScholar's online system and materials support differentiated instruction. For more details, please see CompuScholar's <b>Differentiated Instruction and Student Accommodations Guide:</b> <a href="https://tinyurl.com/3zkth523">https://tinyurl.com/3zkth523</a>
<b>Accuracy of Content - 4.</b> The content is factual, objective, and free of mistakes, errors, inconsistencies, and contradictions.	Each CompuScholar course is written by a software engineer with 20+ years of industry experience. We support best practices in all technical areas. Courses are periodically reviewed for accuracy. Any identified issues in the online content can be fixed within 24 hours and instantly published to our global audience.
<b>Accuracy of Content - 5.</b> Visuals and other elements contribute to the accuracy of text or narrative.	Instructional videos and related imagery within the lesson text pages directly support the skill narratives.
<b>Accuracy of Content - 6.</b> The content uses proper grammar, linguistics, terminology, definitions, descriptions and visuals that contribute to the accuracy of the text narrative.	CompuScholar lessons use industry-standard terminology and consistent language to accurately describe technical subjects.



<b>Relevance of Content - 7.</b> The content is up-to-date for the course and the context in which the content is presented	CompuScholar's online courses are reviewed and updated yearly or as needed to stay current with technical trends and requirements.
<b>Relevance of Content - 8.</b> The text, visuals, photographs, and other features reflect the time period appropriate for the objectives and intended learners.	All CompuScholar courses present information both in an optional audio-visual format (instructional videos) and required lesson text reading. The lesson text pages are full color, contain relevant imagery, vocabulary assistance, and interactive or built-in exercises where relevant.
<b>Authenticity of Content – 9.</b> The content includes problem-centered connections to real life in a context that is meaningful to students.	CompuScholar's examples and exercises use real-world situations and examples that are familiar to most students.
<b>Authenticity of Content – 10.</b> The material includes interdisciplinary connections which are intended to make the content meaningful to students.	Each course contains connections, where relevant, to related subjects (e.g., math, physics, business). Some connections are the main focus of specific lessons, while others are casually referenced in other lesson material.
<b>Multicultural Representation – 11.</b> Content reflects inclusiveness and equity among gender, ethnicity, age, work situations and multicultural groups.	CompuScholar carefully avoids all stereotypes for and against all groups. We focus on technical content.
<b>Presentation</b>	<b>CompuScholar Guidance</b>
<b>Student and Teacher Resources – 12.</b> Guidelines and resources are provided on how to implement and evaluate instruction (e.g., sample projects, alternative assessments, rubrics, peer or performance assessments, and portfolios).	Each course comes complete with teacher's guides for each lesson, full activity solution guides, answer keys, rubrics, and sample solutions. <b>Free Professional Development</b> and <b>1:1 mentoring</b> are available for all teachers.



<b>Alignment of Instructional Components – 13.</b> All components of the instructional package align with each other as well as with the curriculum.	The components of each CompuScholar lesson (video, lesson text, quiz, built-in exercises) and chapter (sequence of lessons, chapter activities, tests) are carefully arranged to present information in a unified format and in the appropriate sequence.
<b>Organization of Instructional Components – 14.</b> The curriculum provides order, clarity, and an explicit and teachable structure. The text is organized and coherent.	Each CompuScholar course begins with basic skills and builds on those skills in later chapters. Chapter sequences are carefully arranged to ensure student growth and success without needing to skip ahead or leverage 3 <sup>rd</sup> party resources.
<b>Organization of Instructional Components – 15.</b> The curriculum provides features that facilitate access to the content (e.g., table of contents index, outlines, key concepts, drop down menus, etc.)	CompuScholar courses are arranged into easily navigable chapters and lessons. Chapters have brief summaries at the top, and lessons are clearly named and have appropriate introductory paragraphs at the top. A full-text search feature gives quick access to topics by keywords.
<b>Organization of Instructional Components – 16.</b> The curriculum has a visible structure and format - at a glance features (e.g., chapter headings, subheadings, highlighting, etc.)	CompuScholar courses are arranged into easily navigable chapters and lessons. Chapters have brief summaries at the top, and lessons are clearly named and have appropriate introductory paragraphs at the top. Resources are presented in a standardized order within each lesson.
<b>Organization of Instructional Components – 17.</b> The pattern of organization is consistent and logistical for the type of subject or topic.	Each CompuScholar course begins with basic skills and builds on those skills in later chapters. Chapter sequences are carefully arranged to ensure student growth and success without needing to skip ahead or leverage 3 <sup>rd</sup> party resources.
<b>Readability of Instructional Materials – 18.</b> The narratives and visuals engage students in reading and/or listening and understanding the content at a level appropriate to the students' level of language acquisition.	All CompuScholar courses present information both in an optional audio-visual format (instructional videos) and required lesson text reading. The lesson text pages are full color, contain relevant imagery, vocabulary assistance, and interactive or built-in exercises where relevant.



<p><b>Readability of Instructional Materials – 19.</b> The curriculum uses organized, coherent text language and concepts familiar to the student.</p>	<p>CompuScholar's lessons use consistent, industry-standard vocabulary. Lesson examples and exercises use real-world situations and examples that are familiar to most students.</p>
<p><b>Readability of Instructional Materials – 20.</b> The curriculum uses visual features that improve readability. (e.g., color/size of print, paper without glare, relevant and clear visuals, etc.)</p>	<p>CompuScholar's online materials meet all relevant WCAG 2.1 and Section 508 requirements for readability and accessibility. Standard browser features can be used to change colors, font sizes, etc. Users may select an "<b>Accessibility</b>" theme in their profile settings for a high-contrast color scheme and other features. Within lessons, sections are clearly identified by headers, keywords are highlighted in bold, and vocabulary tool-tip pop-ups and summaries provide extra visual assistance.</p>
<p><b>Pacing of Content – 21.</b> The amount of content presented at one time or the pace at which it is presented must be of a size or rate that allows students to perceive and understand it.</p>	<p>Each lesson is geared for completion in a standard 45-60 minute class period. Please see the <b>Syllabus and Pacing Guide</b> (PDF) pinned to the top of each course for detailed pacing guidance.</p>
<p><b>Ease of Use of Materials – 22.</b> Material format is easy to access, use, and/or replace</p>	<p>Instructional materials are easily accessed online, have a simple, clear navigation system, and are automatically updated as needed over time.</p>
<p><b>Ease of Use of Materials – 23.</b> Materials are designed for practical use in the classroom and school environment.</p>	<p>CompuScholar's materials are used as primary classroom resources in many states, including Alabama. They can be flexibly deployed in a variety of classroom situations (traditional face-to-face, flipped, hybrid) and support integrations into 3rd-party Learning Management Systems, Clever, ClassLink, etc.</p>
<p><b>Ease of Use of Materials – 24.</b> Technology resources work properly without the purchase of additional software.</p>	<p>Purchase of 3rd-party software is not required to access any online materials. Students may complete a variety of hands-on projects using <b>free</b>, district-chosen software at the district's discretion.</p>



<p><b>Ease of Use of Materials – 25.</b> The material contains presentation, navigation, study tool and assistive supports that aid students, including those with disabilities, to access and interact with the material.</p>	<p>CompuScholar's online materials meet all relevant WCAG 2.1 and Section 508 requirements for readability and accessibility. Standard browser features can be used to change colors, font sizes, etc. Standard 3<sup>rd</sup> party browser plug-ins are supported for read-aloud features (e.g. JAWS), note-taking, highlighting, etc. Users may select an <b>"Accessibility"</b> theme in their profile settings for a high-contrast color scheme and other features.</p>
<p><b>Learning</b></p>	<p><b>CompuScholar Guidance</b></p>
<p><b>Motivational Strategies – 26.</b> Instructional materials include features that maintain learner motivation, provide thought provoking challenges and activities that stimulate intellectual curiosity.</p>	<p>All lessons contain optional instructional videos to introduce the main concepts and provide alternate examples. Most lesson text pages contain built-in "Work with Me" exercises encouraging students to immediately apply what they've learned in a hands-on manner. Quizzes and tests are automatically scored and provide instant results to students. Where relevant, lesson text pages have dynamic opportunities to write and run code to see instant results. Chapter activities use real-world examples and themes attractive to today's students.</p>
<p><b>Motivational Strategies – 27.</b> Materials positively influence the expectations of students for success through tasks that relate to student interests, connect to cultural backgrounds, and provide activities that are relevant to the student's life.</p>	<p>CompuScholar's examples and exercises use real-world situations and examples that are familiar to students with a wide range of backgrounds and interests.</p>
<p><b>Motivational Strategies – 28.</b> Materials include informative and positive feedback on progress through frequent progress checks and varied forms of assessment.</p>	<p>Every lesson has an automatically scored quiz for instant feedback. Chapter activities and tests provide additional grading and feedback opportunities. Some courses have homework problems for additional practice and feedback/assessment.</p>



<p><b>Explicit Instruction – 29.</b> The curriculum includes clear presentation and explanation of purposes, goals, and expected outcomes, concepts, rules, information, terms, models, examples, and feedback.</p>	<p>Every lesson and exercise is carefully written with step-by-step instructions and examples of expected results. Graded activities include rubrics and expected results.</p>
<p><b>Explicit Instruction – 30.</b> Curriculum avoids terms and phrases with ambiguous meanings, confusing directions, and inadequate explanations.</p>	<p>CompuScholar's lessons use consistent, industry-standard vocabulary.</p>
<p><b>Guidance and Support – 31.</b> Instructional materials include scaffolding and differentiated support to help students safely and successfully become more independent learners and thinkers.</p>	<p>Skill development is scaffolded at two levels. First, within one chapter, skills are introduced within lessons with easy examples and "Work with Me" exercises to build confidence. Lesson skills are then applied in a more complex manner in Chapter Activities. Second, across chapters, skills that are learned in earlier chapters are reused and reinforced in subsequent activities, leading to casual mastery. For more details, please see CompuScholar's <b>Differentiated Instruction and Student Accommodations Guide:</b> <a href="https://tinyurl.com/3zkth523">https://tinyurl.com/3zkth523</a></p>
<p><b>Guidance and Support – 32.</b> The curriculum's guidance and support are adaptable to the developmental differences of various learning styles.</p>	<p>CompuScholar's materials support differentiated instruction for both advanced and below-level students. For more details, please see CompuScholar's <b>Differentiated Instruction and Student Accommodations Guide:</b> <a href="https://tinyurl.com/3zkth523">https://tinyurl.com/3zkth523</a></p>
<p><b>Active Participation of Students – 33.</b> Instructional materials provide opportunity to engage the students during the learning process. Students should be given opportunities to demonstrate mastery of skills orally and/or in writing.</p>	<p>Each lesson contains "Work with Me" exercises, giving students immediate opportunities to explore the lesson skills. Teacher's Lesson Guides contain classroom discussion questions for collaborative, oral reinforcement. Some exercises include additional class discussions or encourage presentation of individual or team results to the class.</p>



<p><b>Active Participation of Students – 34.</b> Assignments in the curriculum include questions and application activities during learning that give students opportunities to respond in an active way (e.g., generating products, illustrations, graphs, applying, or extending what they've earned, etc.)</p>	<p>Each lesson's built-in "Work with Me" exercise is directly related to the lesson content. Larger chapter activities reinforce the main lesson skills learned in the chapter and reinforce earlier skills. Assessments at the lesson and chapter level directly measure student understanding of content. Some courses have homework problems for additional practice.</p>
<p><b>Targeted Instructional Strategies – 35.</b> Instructional materials address current research based and best practices targeting instructional learning strategies.</p>	<p>CompuScholar's instructional strategies have a 12-year track record of success throughout the United States, including Alabama. Our instructional materials follow best practices gleaned from our experience and from industry research.</p>
<p><b>Targeted Instructional Strategies – 36.</b> Instructional materials provide appropriate reading strategies and opportunities to embed literacy into content.</p>	<p>Where relevant, lessons will refer students to 3rd-party resources for additional reading. Vocabulary tool-tip pop-ups are available within each lesson, and the lesson text pages are required reading.</p>
<p><b>Targeted Instructional Strategies – 37.</b> The curriculum provides the teacher with multiple assessment tools at a variety of complexity levels.</p>	<p>Assessments are generally comprised of lesson quizzes, chapter tests, and hands-on activities. These combined assessments directly test the desired learning outcomes in each chapter. Teachers have access to a complete electronic grade-book and comprehensive reporting tools to monitor student progress.</p>
<p><b>Digital Platform</b></p>	<p><b>CompuScholar Guidance</b></p>
<p><b>Digital Platform – 38.</b> Has a user-friendly layout/organization and is accessible on mobile devices?</p>	<p>CompuScholar's online interface is clean, neat, and well-organized. It can be accessed on mobile devices, tablets, laptops, and desktop computers.</p>



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<b>Digital Platform - 39.</b> Searchability for teachers and students (topic, benchmarks, keyword)	CompuScholar's online courses contain a keyword search feature (below the student or teacher menu within each course). Users can locate lesson and activity pages by searching for keywords, topic headings, etc.
<b>Digital Platform - 40.</b> Students can annotate digital text, submit work, and receive feedback electronically.	Students can submit work online. Coding projects are done through an online IDE with automatic grading. Grades and teacher feedback are delivered electronically. 3rd-party browser plugins are supported for annotations, highlighting, etc.
<b>Digital Platform - 41.</b> Resources are available for teacher support in content and pedagogy.	Each course comes with complete teacher's material, including teacher guides for each lesson, activity solution guides, rubrics, answer keys, and full example solutions. Free Professional Development is included with each adoption, and support is provided year-round.

*Thank you for reviewing our materials!*