i-Ready Classroom Mathematics: Accessibility and Accommodations Update

Curriculum Associates | July 2022

> ## Overview
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> To make *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics* accessible to the widest population of students, we offer a range of accessibility supports that may also meet the requirements of a number of student accommodations. This accessibility update is designed to provide educators with information about *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics*' current accessibility supports, insight into our vision, and plans for future enhancements.

Dedicated to Creating Accessible Experiences

At Curriculum Associates, we believe every student has the potential for educational excellence. That's why we're dedicated to creating accessible materials that maximize usability for students with disabilities. We strive to ensure that accessibility and accommodation support considerations are incorporated into our product development process from the very beginning, and we've developed a continuous improvement approach to accessibility that ensures we're always improving and learning.

Always Improving

Accessibility opportunities and expectations are continually evolving. To meet the needs of the students and districts we serve, we engage in ongoing work to evaluate and improve our educational tools and resources. We have developed a systematic approach to accessibility that includes:

- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) and the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework guiding our accessibility efforts
- An internal team of access and equity, curriculum, assessment, policy, and research experts who are dedicated to finding new ways for our educational tools and resources to be used by a diverse range of learners
- A rigorous review process that involves outside accessibility experts to ensure our thinking and approach reflect established and evolving best practices
- Guidance and feedback from the school districts and educators we serve

In addition to the above, we have enlisted the help of student testers to evaluate the effectiveness of our accessibility enhancements. Our commitment to and work toward increased accessibility is ongoing. All of our accessibility efforts and enhancements are offered to educators at no additional cost as part of Curriculum Associates' Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) model.

i-Ready Classroom Mathematics' Accessibility Supports and Accommodations

The table on the following page contains information about accessibility features and support for accommodations in the *i-Ready Diagnostic*, Student Bookshelf, Comprehension Checks, and Interactive Practice. Supports and accommodations may not be available across all content areas, grades, and products.

i-Ready Classroom Mathematics: Accessibility Supports and Accommodations and Develop Session Videos

Universal Supports	Designated Supports	Accommodations
Available to all students, regardless of their disability status or any other type of documented need	Available for use by any student as determined by an educator familiar with the student's characteristics and needs	Available to students in accordance with their IEPs/504 plans
Embedded Embedded universal supports available within the Diagnostic, Student Bookshelf, Comprehension Checks, and Interactive Practice that require no additional configuration: • *Audio support and text-to-speech[1]* • *Audio description tracks[2]* • *Keyboard access[3]* • *Calculator*** • *Color contrast[4]* • *Closed captioning[5]* • *Digital Math Tools[6]* • *Presentation of material for age-appropriate pedagogy and legibility[7]* • *Built-in zoom-in/zoom-out magnification*[8]* • *Highlighting and notetaking capability** • *Multilingual Glossary** **Non-embedded** Non-embedded universal supports include: • *Audio amplification* • *English dictionary (when appropriate)* • *Noise buffer (e.g., earmuffs, audio aids)* • *Scratch paper (i.e., blank paper)* • *Thesaurus (when appropriate)* • *Student Bookshelf and Interactive Practice contain scaffolded support (content-specific, interactive elements).*	**Embedded** Audio support for Diagnostic items for Grades 6+ are available as a designated support as of September 2021. Educators need to enable this feature. All other traditionally embedded designated supports are available universally to students in the Diagnostic, Student Bookshelf, Comprehension Checks, and Interactive Practice. No further configuration by educators is required. **Non-embedded** Educators can make the following non-embedded designated supports available to students: • *Bilingual dictionary* • *Magnification device[8]* • *Native language translation of directions* • *Student reads test aloud.*	**Embedded** At this time, traditionally embedded accommodations are handled through universal and designated supports or through non-embedded accommodations. **Non-embedded** The following non-embedded accommodations can be made available to students: • *Abacus* • *Alternate response options* • *Calculator* • *Extended time breaks and flexible scheduling* • *Graphic organizer/ reference sheet/checklist* • *Human reader* • *Human signer* • *Multiplication table* • *Scribe* • *Screen readers[9]* • *Tactile graphics[10]*

*= Student Bookshelf only   **= Diagnostic (in specific items) and Student Bookshelf only

[1] **Universal audio support** (i.e., pre-recorded human-voiced audio of text) is currently available in Grades K–5 Diagnostic items, Grades K–1 Comprehension Check items, and Interactive Practice, with limited exceptions. **Text-to-speech** is available only in the Student Bookshelf.

[2] **Audio description tracks:** Students can enable audio description of what is happening visually in the Diagnostic Introductory Videos for Grades 3–5 and in the Develop Session Videos for Grades 6–8 by selecting the AD button. Additional audio descriptions to Diagnostic videos and Develop Session Videos will occur in ongoing releases.

[3] **Keyboard access** is available with documented exceptions.

[4] **Contrast requirements:** All Interactive Practice problems include global navigation controls that adhere to WCAG 2.0 AA requirements for color contrast. In the Diagnostic and Comprehension Checks, we are compliant with WCAG 2.0 AA requirements for minimum contrast with documented exceptions. The majority of text in the Student Bookshelf meets WCAG 2.0 AA minimum contrast requirements. There are limited exceptions where contrast is just below the requirement. Documentation of these exceptions is ongoing.

[5] **Closed captioning** is available in Interactive Practice problems, Develop Session Videos, and in the Family Resources Unit Flow & Progression Videos on the Student Bookshelf. The Diagnostic Introductory Videos include closed captioning for Grades 3+, and most of the Diagnostic Interactive Tutorials for Grades K–2 include captioning. Comprehension Check content does not require closed captioning.

[6] **Digital Math Tools** are universally available to students in their dashboard, and specific tools are available within lessons on the Student Bookshelf. In the Diagnostic, Comprehension Check, and Interactive Practice problems, Digital Math Tools are available on specific items or lessons.

[7] **Presentation of material for age-appropriate pedagogy and legibility** includes visual mathematical models/representations that present multiple solution strategies.

8   A **built-in zoom-in/zoom-out magnification tool** is included in the Student Bookshelf. The Diagnostic, Comprehension Checks, and Interactive Practice problems do not have built-in magnification tools. Browser zoom controls can be used to zoom in on content for many items in the Diagnostic and Interactive Practice. While we have not performed extensive testing with third-party or built-in operating system magnification tools, educators may find the following documents helpful: For PCs | For Macs® | For iPads® | For Chromebooks™

9   The Diagnostic, Student Bookshelf, and Comprehension Checks have been tested with JAWS®, NVDA, and VoiceOver with specific browser combinations. Reduction of exceptions and improved usability are part of our ongoing work. Educators should refer to documentation on the student's screen reader before determining if the accommodation is appropriate for the student.

10 **There are some instances when a student may request or require a tactile graphic** to access a test item enhanced by alt text. Because the *i-Ready Diagnostic* is a computer-adaptive assessment, notification about the need for a tactile graphic cannot be provided to teachers before the assessment is administered. This guidance brief offers information about how to create tactile graphics on demand.

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i-Ready Classroom Mathematics and the WCAG

Your account manager or educational consultant will be happy to provide you with up-to-date information on *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics* and WCAG. Please contact them for details.

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i-Ready Classroom Mathematics: Always Improving

We have an ongoing plan for *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics* that is driven by continual evaluation and the application of research-based principles. Our goals for enhanced accessibility supports are outlined below. Please note that these are forecasts of future work. While we always do our best to present accurate information, the planning and content of our accessibility timeline may be subject to change.

Diagnostic

Our top priority is to design and develop our assessments to be free of characteristics that could interfere with students' test-taking experiences. This is essential not only from the perspective of the student, but also to ensure that educators are provided with validly obtained assessment data to make informed inferences about student performance.[11]

Moving Forward

We are committed to ongoing improvements to accessibility features and accommodations across our assessment products, and accessibility enhancements are released on a rolling basis. These efforts include:

- For WCAG criteria that currently have documented exceptions, we will be **reducing and/or removing documented exceptions**. For example, we are adding audio description tracks to our Diagnostic videos. This work began in December 2021 and will continue on a rolling basis.
- **Further usability updates to the Diagnostic** will be informed by our partnership with Perkins Access, other accessibility and UDL advisors, and our internal Usability Testing team. Upcoming work includes enhancing compatibility with particular assistive technologies such as refreshable braille displays.

Comprehension Checks

We are excited to continue to add support for keyboard access, visual design, and additional accessibility supports.

Moving Forward

Some of our goals for enhanced accessibility supports in Comprehension Checks include:

- We will be **adding coverage** for remaining WCAG criteria and reducing the number of documented exceptions.
- **Visual design enhancements:** Our design team will continue to apply WCAG visual design requirements (i.e., for minimum contrast and use of color) in all new items.
- Additional usability testing will lead to **further usability updates**, including the exploration of read-aloud options for students with documented needs.

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11 AERA, APA, & NCME. (2014). *Standards for education and psychological testing*. Washington, DC: American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, National Council on Measurement in Education.

Student Bookshelf

As evidenced by the wide range of supports currently included in the Student Bookshelf (e.g., embedded tools, annotation and text-to-speech features, various ways to navigate content), we're committed to making the student experience as accessible as possible.

Moving Forward

We are continuing to expand the availability of audio descriptions in our Develop Session Video Library and My Videos. This work began in December 2021 and will continue on a rolling basis.

Interactive Practice

Our accessibility efforts for Interactive Practice to date have been focused on enhancing our extensive collection of existing content. We have updated our global navigation controls (e.g., forward/backward buttons, etc.) to meet WCAG 2.1 AA criteria for minimum contrast for the majority of content.

Moving Forward

Accessibility efforts for Interactive Practice include:

- **Enhanced usability:** Our design priorities include new activities with keyboard navigation, closed captioning, and visual design.
- **Supporting students who are blind or have low vision:** We are exploring options for greater access.
- **Keyboard access** will expand to additional grades and domains on an ongoing basis throughout 2021–2023.

Learn More

Visit _i-Ready Classroom Central_ for more information about _i-Ready Classroom Mathematics'_ accessibility features and accommodations, including the documented exceptions that apply to some features.

Visit _i-Ready Central_® for more information about _i-Ready Personalized Instruction_ accessibility and accommodations.

Contact Us

In everything we do at Curriculum Associates, our award-winning Educator Success team is at the foundation of our success. If your district has any suggestions or product enhancement ideas for how we can improve our accessibility efforts, we would love to hear from you. Please contact your district's account manager or _i-Ready_ partner, and they will be happy to forward your ideas to our product team or answer any questions you have about our existing offerings.