

i-Ready Classroom Mathematics: Accessibility and Accommodations Update

Curriculum Associates | September 2024

Overview

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

Universal Supports	Designated Supports	Accommodations
<p>Available to all students, regardless of their disability status, English proficiency level, or any other type of documented need</p>	<p>Available for use by any student as determined by an educator familiar with the student's characteristics and needs</p>	<p>Available to students in accordance with their IEP, 504, and/or English Learner plans</p>
<p>Embedded Embedded universal supports available within the Diagnostic, Student Bookshelf, Comprehension Checks, and Interactive Practice that require no additional configuration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Audio support</i>¹ • <i>Audio descriptions</i>² • <i>Keyboard navigation</i>³ • <i>Calculator</i>[*] • <i>Color contrast</i>⁴ • <i>Closed captioning</i>⁵ • <i>Digital Math Tools</i>⁶ • <i>Presentation of material for age-appropriate pedagogy and legibility</i>⁷ • <i>Built-in zoom-in/zoom-out magnification</i>^{**8} • <i>Highlighting and note-taking capability</i>^{**} • <i>Multilingual Glossary</i>^{**} • <i>Reflow</i>[†] 	<p>Embedded Audio support is available for the Diagnostic for Mathematics Grades 6+ items as either a designated support or an accommodation.⁹</p> <p>Educators need to enable this feature. To learn more about audio support in <i>i-Ready Diagnostic</i>, please refer to the Feature Overview: Audio Support.</p>	<p>Embedded Audio support is available for the Diagnostic for Mathematics Grades 6+ items as either a designated support or an accommodation.⁹</p> <p>Educators need to enable this feature. To learn more about audio support in <i>i-Ready Diagnostic</i>, please refer to the Feature Overview: Audio Support.</p>
<p>Non-embedded Non-embedded universal supports include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Audio amplification</i> • <i>English dictionary (when appropriate)</i> • <i>Noise buffer (e.g., earmuffs, audio aids)</i> • <i>Scratch paper (i.e., blank paper)</i> • <i>Thesaurus (when appropriate)</i> • <i>Student Bookshelf and Interactive Practice contain scaffolded support (i.e., content-specific, interactive elements).</i> 	<p>Non-embedded Educators can make the following non-embedded designated supports available to students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bilingual dictionary</i> • <i>Magnification device</i>⁸ • <i>Native language translation of directions</i> • <i>Student reads test aloud.</i> 	<p>Non-embedded The following non-embedded accommodations can be made available to students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Abacus</i> • <i>Alternate response options</i> • <i>Calculator</i> • <i>Extended time breaks and flexible scheduling</i> • <i>Graphic organizer/reference sheet/checklist</i> • <i>Human reader</i> • <i>Human signer</i> • <i>Multiplication table</i> • <i>Scribe</i> • <i>Screen readers</i>¹⁰ • <i>Tactile graphics</i>¹¹

*Diagnostic (in specific items) and Student Bookshelf only **Student Bookshelf only †Comprehension Checks only

- ¹ **Universal audio support** (i.e., editorially vetted audio of text) is currently available in Grades K–5 Diagnostic items, Comprehension Check items, Student Bookshelf, and Interactive Practice with limited exceptions.
- ² **Audio descriptions:** Students can enable audio descriptions 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 will be added in ongoing releases.
- ³ **Keyboard navigation** is available with documented exceptions.
- ⁴ **Contrast requirements:** All Interactive Practice problems include global navigation controls that adhere to WCAG 2.0 Level AA requirements for color contrast. In the Diagnostic and Comprehension Checks, we are compliant with WCAG 2.0 Level AA requirements for minimum contrast with documented exceptions. The majority of text in the Student Bookshelf meets WCAG 2.0 Level 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. Closed captioning is available on all Diagnostic interactive and non-interactive tutorials for Grades K–2, and the tutorials and Diagnostic Introductory Videos for Grades 3+. 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 Check, 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 Due to **differences in state and local policies** related to audio support, we offer read-aloud support nationally as both a designated support and an accommodation. Educators can enable it for students in the platform. Educators should reference a student’s IEP, 504, or English Learner plan to determine what accommodations are appropriate and/or use other documented needs to determine what designated supports are appropriate. For both documented supports and accommodations, educators should ensure they are referencing and adhering to their state and district policies around the provision of that support or accommodation. Reports will indicate whether read-aloud support was made available to a student, but *i-Ready* will not track/indicate if it was used as a designated support or an accommodation.
- ¹⁰ 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.
- ¹¹ **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. We are actively engaged with the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) to improve our delivery of tactile graphics to support students who are blind or have low vision.

i-Ready Classroom Mathematics and the WCAG

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

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:

- Adding supports to *i-Ready Assessment* to **further enhance usability**. For example, we are exploring ways to approach meeting remaining WCAG 2.1 and 2.2 Level AA criteria, including reflow.
- For WCAG criteria that currently have documented exceptions, we will be **reducing and/or removing documented exceptions**. For example, we are adding audio descriptions 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, the Center for Assessment, other accessibility and UDL advisors, and our internal Usability Testing team. Additionally, we are actively engaged with the APH to improve our delivery of tactile graphics to support students who are blind or have low vision.

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:

- **Adding coverage** for remaining WCAG criteria and reducing the number of documented exceptions, including increasing reflow support from current level of 200% to up to 400%
- **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.

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

For Back to School 2025, there will be a new and improved eReader available for students to access the digital version of their Student Worktext. The new eReader will include the following features:

- Compliant with WCAG 2.2 Level AA guidelines
- Embedded read aloud with voice and reading speed options available
- Ability to search, print, bookmark, and highlight text with the option of adding a note
- Options to improve eBook usability, such as line guide (i.e., ruler aid), focus mode, high-contrast option, and settings to change font, text size, line height, and letter spacing

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

Interactive Practice

We continually monitor Interactive Practice (and all of our products) for opportunities to improve usability for all students.

Learn More

Please visit the [i-Ready Accessibility and Accommodations Resource Hub](#) for more information about *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics* and all of our products.

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 partner success 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.