

# Curriculum Leadership Institute E-Hint

## SELECTING RESOURCES

In most school districts, there is not really a systematic process in place for selecting new resources. While sample resources are displayed for any teacher to peruse, and a committee is usually appointed to make the actual selection — there are no specific guidelines regarding what to look for, or how to make the decision. Too often, the selection is based on general appearance and format, and how many suggestions the teacher's guide provides, but with only a *perception* of how well it supports the local curriculum, rather than actual evidence.

A better way to review resource materials is to evaluate them using a pair of rubrics — one that deals specifically with the district's local curriculum, outcome-by-outcome — and another that gives points for a variety of other resource traits. We've provided a sample of each for you in this *Ehint*.

### Rubric #1: Evaluating Resources For Curriculum Outcomes

Select a resource to evaluate. Look at each outcome you are required to teach, and expand the table to accommodate the number of outcomes/resources you have. How good a resource is this for outcome #1? Give a score 1-5 (5= Best). Repeat for outcome #2, and so forth. If the resource does not address an outcome at all, record a 0. Figure the average rating for each resource; the one with the highest score does the best job of addressing your outcomes overall.

Outcome	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Avg. Score
Resource Name								
Comments								
Resource Name								
Comments								

## Rubric #2: Evaluating Resources For Multiple Traits

Insert the name of the resources across the top; expand the table to accommodate the number of outcomes/resources you have. In the next row (Content) enter the average score from Rubric #1. In all other rows, award 1 point if the trait is strong in the resource, and 0 if it is weak or missing.\* (You may add "Comments" to help clarify the rating.) The resource with the highest score is the best selection.

Resource name: →					Comments
Content—matches curriculum (& thus state standards) <b>Up to 5 pts.</b>					
Professional Development Provided <b>1 pt.</b>					
Teaching strategies/ teacher friendly <b>1 pt.</b>					
High interest/student friendly <b>1 pt.</b>					
Assessment ideas <b>1 pt.</b>					
Supplemental materials-remedial and enrichment <b>1 pt.</b>					
Total Score:					

Notice that "Content" — how well the resource supports the local curriculum outcomes — is worth up to 5 points by itself, while all other traits *combined* are worth the same amount. This is an important distinction. Suppose, for example, a resource has lots of teaching strategies and assessment ideas. That's great — but if they are for topics other than the ones you are supposed to be teaching — that resource is really not going to be very helpful!

\*If you would like a greater range for scoring, use 0 for "weak or missing"; 1 for "good," and 2 for "excellent." In this case *double* the score you entered for "Content."