Materials Alignment Toolkit Updates:

Instructional Materials Evaluation Tool (IMET), Assessment Evaluation Tool (AET) & Quality Criteria Checklists

Since the release of the IMET, AET and Quality Criteria Checklists in 2013, Student Achievement Partners has been gathering feedback from the field about the experience of using these tools.

This document outlines updates made to each of these tools in response to that feedback. Go to the next page or use these quick-links to jump to a specific section of this document.

* **Overall**
* **Instructional Materials Evaluation Tool (IMET)**
* **Assessment Evaluation Tool (AET)**

# Overall

* Created a more consistent, user-friendly design with clear navigation across the IMET, AET and Quality Criteria Checklists
* Added a “Procedure for Evaluating the Metric” column in the AET and a “How to Find the Evidence” column in the IMET to provide specific guidance for how to find evidence that a metric has been met
* Simplified scoring guidelines and a clarified the threshold for alignment
* Separated Indicators of Quality from the evaluation portion of the IMET or AET and clarified that they represent a sampling rather than a complete list
* Streamlined the criteria language and content to show a clearer relationship across the tools

# Instructional Materials Evaluation Tool (IMET)

Detail on Changes to ELA/Literacy

1. **New K – 2 IMET for ELA/Literacy** has been added to the toolkit
   1. Distinguishes materials for reading instruction and considerations for text complexity as separate criteria for evaluation.
   2. Includes guidance about when text complexity applies and doesn’t apply to both student- and teacher-read materials
2. **Re-categorized and reduced** the number of Non-Negotiable Alignment Criteria (from 9 to 2), Alignment Criteria, and Indicators of Quality
3. **Streamlined the language of the indicators** to more clearly reflect the language of the CCSS for ELA/Literacy, the Publisher’s Criteria, and Appendix A

Detail on Changes to Mathematics

1. **Targeted the Non-Negotiable Alignment Criteria** to address critical aspects of Focus and Coherence; made this section slimmer and easier to understand
   1. NN1 – Freedom from Obstacles to Focus: is now first in the tool, and the simplest and clearest to evaluate
   2. NN2 – Focus and Coherence: includes several metrics, now does not require computation of percentages
2. **Additional Alignment Criteria focus on Rigor and Mathematical Practices** with a set threshold for passing instead of a binary selection (lessening the potential variability of interpretation)
3. **Re-categorized and reduced** the number of Non-Negotiable Alignment Criteria, Alignment Criteria, and Indicators of Quality

# Assessment Evaluation Tool (AET)

Detail on Changes to ELA/Literacy

* 1. **Slimmer Non-Negotiable section**: Two Non-Negotiable criteria apply to assessments of Reading; other domains are evaluated according to Alignment Criteria.
  2. **Alignment Criteria section created:** An Alignment Criteria section has been developed to enable evaluators to determine the strengths and weaknesses of a program’s alignment grade-by-grade, rather than simply determining whether or not the program is aligned. A point system allows evaluators to determine the degree of alignment and signal where improvements should be made.
  3. **Evaluators use Alignment Criteria sections that pertain to the ELA/literacy domain(s) being assessed:** Alignment Criteria are separated into sections so that alignment to the domains Reading, Writing, Language, and Speaking and Listening can be evaluated as applicable.
  4. **Separated Indicators of Quality into section following the alignment evaluation:** Indicators of Quality included in a separate section to provide additional guidance for evaluators to further distinguish among aligned materials, based on assessment best practices and local priorities.

Detail on Changes to Mathematics AET

1. **Slimmer Non-Negotiable section:** Targeted the Non-Negotiable criteria to address critical aspects of Focus and Coherence; made this section slimmer and easier to understand.
2. **Alignment Criteria section created:** Alignment Criteria enable reviewers to determine the strengths and weaknesses of a program’s alignment grade by grade and set a threshold for alignment. These criteria ensure that assessments have rigor and balance, emphasize the progressions, connect the mathematical practice with the content standards, and support focus.