

# CURSIVE WRITING

## High-Quality Instructional Materials Review Rubric

Grade Range: 2-5

Evaluator		Rating Committee	
Publisher			
Title of Textbook Series/Instructional Program			
Grade Range of Textbook Series/Instructional Program	2-5	Specific Grade Evaluated	

This evaluation rubric is designed to offer an evaluation to determine how well instructional materials align to the Senate Bill 2273 passed by the Mississippi Legislature in 2017 regarding instruction in cursive writing. The evaluation rubric includes key considerations for high-quality instructional materials and outlines three **Gateways** for consideration when evaluating materials. Within each Gateway, **Criterion** and related **Indicators** are provided along with **Guiding/Key Questions**.



The evaluation rubric is designed to allow reviewers to determine a threshold for quality for each gateway. Remember to focus on what is present in the instructional materials and any supplemental resources rather than what might be inferred. All scores should be based on evidence observed from the instructional materials themselves.

### Scoring Protocol and Criteria:

- **No evidence (0):** No correlation between the standards and lessons, a logical sequence of content cannot be identified and/or there appear to be significant content inaccuracies, essential understandings, knowledge, or skills are not addressed, and opportunities to practice essential skills are not included.
- **Limited (1 or 2):** Limited connections between the standards and the lessons are noted, content appears to contain some inaccuracies or is not always clear, essential understandings, knowledge, or skills are not sufficiently addressed, and there is limited opportunity for students to practice essential skills.
- **Adequate (2 or 4):** Lessons are aligned with the standards, content appears accurate clear, and in sequential order, most of the essential understandings, knowledge, and skills are supported, and many opportunities are provided for students to practice essential skills.

### The High-Quality Instructional Materials Review Rubric is comprised of three sections:

**Gateway 1:** Alignment to Standards - **This is a requirement for submission.**

→ Advance to Gateway 2 only if Gateway 1 has a score of at least 13 points.

**Gateway 2:** Instructional Support - **This is a requirement for submission.**

→ Advance to Gateway 3 only if Gateway 2 has a score of at least 14 points.

**Gateway 3:** Access and Technology

# GATEWAY 1

**Alignment to Standards - This is a requirement for submission.**

High-quality instructional materials are coherent and aligned to the instruction of cursive writing and reading. To determine the Gateway rating, educators use evidence gathered from the instructional materials to score indicators related to each criterion.

- Criterion 1.1 (1a – 1d): Alignment and Coherence**  
 Materials adequately address the instruction of cursive writing and reading.
- Criterion 1.3 (1d – 1f): Assessment**  
 Materials offer assessment opportunities that genuinely measure progress and elicit direct, observable evidence of the degree to which students can independently demonstrate the assessed standards.

Criterion 1.1: ALIGNMENT AND COHERENCE			
CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	Guiding/Key Questions	SCORE
<b>Materials are aligned closely to the instruction of cursive writing and reading.</b>  <b>10 possible points</b>	<b>1a.</b> Suggests cross-curricular lessons/activities to extend the lessons, connect to grade-level content, and enhance skill generalization. (4 points)		0 2 4
	<b>1b.</b> Provides more opportunities for copying and less for tracing. (2 points)		0 1 2
	<b>1c.</b> Supports correct sentence structure with capitalization, spacing, and punctuation. (2 points)		0 1 2
	<b>1d.</b> Includes multiple subject areas as part of the writing activities for background knowledge enrichment in all grades. (2 points)		0 1 2

<b>TOTAL SCORE CRITERION 1.1</b> [10 possible points]			
<b>Criterion 1.2: ASSESSMENT</b>			
<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY</b>	<b>Guiding/Key Questions</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
<b>Materials offer assessment opportunities that genuinely measure progress and elicit direct, observable evidence of the degree to which students can independently demonstrate the assessed standards.</b>  <b>6 possible points</b>	<b>1e.</b> Provides formative and summative assessment to monitor student progress through the school year that includes remediation strategies specific to individual student needs to personalize learning and drive instruction. <b>(2 points)</b>		0 1 2
	<b>1f.</b> Supports student practicing self-evaluation/checking their work daily. <b>(2 points)</b>		0 1 2
	<b>1g.</b> Provides suggestions for reteaching and intervention. <b>(2 points)</b>		0 1 2
<b>TOTAL SCORE CRITERION 1.2</b> [6 possible points]			

Gateway 1 Points AVAILABLE	Gateway 1 Points ACHIEVED	GATEWAY 1 RATING
<b>16</b>	Sum of points from Criterion 1.1 and 1.2	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Meets</b> (score of 12-16 points) <b>PROCEED TO GATEWAY 2</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Partially Meets</b> (score of 7-11 points) <b>PROCEED TO GATEWAY 2</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Does Not Meet</b> (score of 0-6 points) <b>STOP REVIEW</b>
<b>GATEWAY COMMENTS</b>		

# GATEWAY 2

**Instructional Support - This is a requirement for submission.**

Gateway 2 examines the way materials support teachers to fully utilize the curriculum and understand the skills and learning of their students. To determine the Gateway rating, educators use evidence gathered from the instructional materials to score indicators related to each criterion.

- **Criterion 2.1 (2a – 2d): Student Learning**

Materials identify ways in which materials are designed for each student’s regular and active participation.

<b>Criterion 2.1: STUDENT LEARNING</b>			
<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY</b>	<b>Guiding/Key Questions</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
<b>Materials identify ways in which materials are designed for each student’s regular and active participation.</b>  <b>10 possible points</b>	<b>2a.</b> Teaches proper grip according to handedness and proper posture. (2 points)		0 1 2
	<b>2b.</b> Follows a scaffolded, developmental teaching order for introducing letters with groupings based on formation and direction, that progresses from easiest letters and/or connections to the most difficult. (4 points)		0 2 4
	<b>2c.</b> Uses fewer strokes when teaching letters. (2 points)		0 1 2
	<b>2d.</b> Provides step-by-step models for letter formations. (2 points)		0 1 2
<b>TOTAL SCORE CRITERION 2.1</b> <b>[10 possible points]</b>			

Gateway 2 Points AVAILABLE	Gateway 2 Points ACHIEVED	GATEWAY 2 RATING
<b>10</b>	Sum of points from Criterion 2.1	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Meets</b> (score of 8-10 points) <b>PROCEED TO GATEWAY 3</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Partially Meets</b> (score of 5-7 points) <b>PROCEED TO GATEWAY 3</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Does Not Meet</b> (score of 0-4 points) <b>STOP REVIEW</b>
<b>GATEWAY COMMENTS</b>		

<b>TOTAL SCORE (Gateway 1 and 2)</b>		
<b>GATEWAY 1</b>	<b>GATEWAY 2</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>
of 16 points	of 10 points	of 26 points
<b>RATING</b>	<b>RATING</b>	



# GATEWAY 3

## Teacher Supports and Instructional Design

Schools can use digital resources in a variety of ways to support teaching and learning. To determine the Gateway rating, educators use evidence gathered from the instructional materials to score indicators related to each criterion.

- Criterion 3.1 (3a – 3e): Teacher Supports**  
 Materials include resources for teachers to effectively plan and implement materials with integrity and to further develop their professional learning.
- Criterion 3.2 (3f – 3i): Instructional Design**  
 Materials align with student-centered practices and allow opportunities for students to explore content.

Criterion 3.1: TEACHER SUPPORTS			
CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	Guiding/Key Questions	SCORE
<b>Materials include resources for teachers to effectively plan and implement materials with integrity and to further develop their teaching.</b>  <b>10 possible points</b>	<b>3a.</b> Provides clear lesson objectives and multisensory teaching strategies (2 points)		0 1 2
	<b>3b.</b> Instructs teachers to demonstrate for the class/group to provide explicit instruction. (2 points)		0 1 2
	<b>3c.</b> Demonstration includes child-friendly understandable language that teachers verbalize the letter formations when teaching. (2 points)		0 1 2
	<b>3d.</b> Includes ideas for differentiation (interest, learning style, readiness). (2 points)		0 1 2
	<b>3e.</b> Provides ELL and Support resources, tools, and strategies. (2 points)		0 1 2

<b>TOTAL SCORE CRITERION 3.1</b> [10 possible points]			
<b>Criterion 3.2: INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN</b>			
<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY</b>	<b>Guiding/Key Questions</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
<b>Materials align with student-centered practices and allow opportunities for students to explore content.</b>  <b>8 possible points</b>	<b>3f.</b> Lessons are designed to save time and take no more than 15 minutes per day that includes direct instruction through independent practice. (2 points)		0 1 2
	<b>3g.</b> Uses minimal to no color on student pages to reduce distraction and offers enough white space on the page for thinking time. (2 points)		0 1 2
	<b>3h.</b> Provides plenty of space on student workbook pages for students to write with opportunities to practice on different types of lines. (2 points)		0 1 2
	<b>3i.</b> Instruction includes academic application opportunities for students to support writing legibly in cursive. (2 points)		0 1 2
<b>TOTAL SCORE CRITERION 3.2</b> [8 possible points]			

Gateway 3 Points AVAILABLE	Gateway 3 Points ACHIEVED	GATEWAY 3 RATING
<b>18</b>	Sum of Criterion 3.1 and 3.2 points	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Meets</b> (score of 14-18 points) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Partially Meets</b> (score of 10-13 points) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Does Not Meet</b> (score of 0-9 points)
<b>GATEWAY COMMENTS</b>		

<b>TOTAL SCORE (Gateway 1, 2, and 3)</b>			
<b>GATEWAY 1</b>	<b>GATEWAY 2</b>	<b>GATEWAY 3</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>
of 16 points	of 10 points	of 18 points	of 44 points
<b>RATING</b>	<b>RATING</b>	<b>RATING</b>	

<b>ADDITIONAL NOTES</b>