

**Nevada Instructional Materials Review Process
Category 2 Rubric – Alignment to Social Justice**

Criteria	Metrics	Meets	Needs Improvement	Does not Meet	Amplify Response
A. Accessibility	Materials provide multiple opportunities for students to express their learning and interact with materials which have been informed by student input, cultures, languages, values, customs, and instructor knowledge of individual students' strengths and needs.	2	1	0	<p>Materials in the Amplify ELA curriculum cover a wide range of topics, themes, and genres. Culturally and linguistically responsive materials affirm students' backgrounds, set high expectations for culturally and linguistically diverse students, and ensure best instructional practices that are inclusive and student-centered. Taken as a whole, course materials show students a diverse picture of the world, while promoting opportunities for students to connect to reading through their own prior knowledge and experiences.</p> <p>Each grade begins with Unit A: Get Started lessons, which are designed to develop a student-centered community of readers and writers. These lessons focus on teaching key foundational writing skills through short narrative prompts, followed by a sharing routine where students discuss the range of perspectives and experiences presented in these pieces. This sharing routine continues throughout the year, centering student voices and a culture of collaboration.</p> <p>Amplify ELA is also focused on creating and supporting a safe classroom community where students' voices and ideas drive the</p>

				<p>learning. Incorporating students' ideas, concerns, and questions into dynamic group discussions and activities such as Quests, fishbowl discussions, Socratic seminars, and debates allows students to direct the conversation and establish an intellectual and supportive classroom culture.</p> <p>Additionally, Amplify ELA materials provide opportunities for teachers to make decisions based on their knowledge of students' strengths and needs. Amplify ELA units include a robust system of embedded assessment that provides teachers with actionable student performance data long before end-of-unit exams. Teachers receive Embedded Assessment Measure (EAM) reports that allow them to easily track and interpret student performance against the three core domains of Reading, Writing, and Language without ever interrupting the flow of daily instruction to test students. In addition to helping teachers make informed instructional choices based on the demonstrated strengths and needs of their students, the EAM report also contains recommendations for how to group students and provide additional practice within the Amplify Flex Days.</p> <p>Where to look:</p> <p>Grade 6: 6A: Dahl & Narrative, Sub-unit 2, Lesson 5,</p>
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					<p>Activities 4–5</p> <p>6E: Summer of the Mariposas, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 7, Activity 5</p> <p>Grade 7:</p> <p>7D: Poetry & Poe, Sub-unit 2, Lesson 6, Activities 3–6</p> <p>7E: The Frida & Diego Collection, Sub-unit 4, Lesson 2, Activity 2</p> <p>Grade 8:</p> <p>8A: Perspectives & Narrative, Sub-unit 3, Lesson 10, Activities 2–9</p> <p>8C: Science & Science Fiction, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 4, Grade 8 Flex Day Activities Guide</p> <p>Select “Grade 8 Flex Day Activities Guide” in Materials.</p>
B. Connections	Materials provide more than three real-life connections made or represented from a variety of cultures and life experiences.	2	1	0	Throughout Amplify ELA, students have the opportunity to connect core texts to their own experiences and communities. For example, they follow up their reading of Robert Hayden’s “Those Winter Sundays” by composing their own poem to an everyday hero from their community; they debate whether or not chocolate should be served in their school cafeteria as they learn about both the health benefits and risks of eating chocolate; they interview a family or community member about that person’s

				<p>immigration experience as they study Emma Lazarus’s “The New Colossus”; they consider how the term “justice” resonates today as they explore Frederick Douglass’s discussion of justice in his <i>Narrative</i>.</p> <p>Units within the program are also designed to be responsive to the current events or perspectives of the communities in which they are implemented. The research Collection units in each grade provide supported but flexible lesson opportunities for students to identify, research, discuss, and write about the events and perspectives related to each unit topic that are of greatest interest or concern to them.</p> <p>Texts in the Amplify ELA curriculum cover a wide range of topics, themes, and genres. Taken as a whole, the texts show students a diverse picture of the world, while promoting opportunities for students to connect to reading through their own prior knowledge and experiences. Certain texts and supplementary materials are provided in Spanish to assist non-native English Language Learners in building linguistic and cultural understanding.</p> <p>Every Amplify ELA lesson provides a differentiation section in the Lesson Overview. This section is meant to provide teachers with strategies and resources to assist in building students’ cultural and</p>
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					<p>linguistic abilities. Many of these strategies encourage the use of activating prior knowledge in advance of specific lesson activities that might require additional support for ELL students.</p> <p>Where to look:</p> <p>Grade 6: 6B: Mysteries & Investigations, Sub-unit 2, Lesson 2, Activities 2 and 3</p> <p>6E: Summer of the Mariposas, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 14, Activity 5</p> <p>Grade 7: 7C: Brain Science, Sub-unit 2, Lesson 2</p> <p>Poetry in America: Grade 7, Sub-unit 3, Lesson 3, Activity 1</p> <p>Grade 8: 8A: Perspectives & Narrative, Sub-unit 3, Lesson 7, Activities 3–5 and 7</p> <p>8B: Liberty & Equality, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 1, Activity 5</p>
C. Culturally Centered	Materials provide ten or more varying authors and philosophies that reflect the diversity in culture, languages, traditions, beliefs, values, and customs artifacts, rituals and routines, and structures that promote	2	1	0	Amplify’s culturally diverse collection of authors, protagonists, and topics ensures that texts and tasks are relevant and relatable. Amplify ELA core middle school lessons are crafted to expose students to a diverse array of text types, genres, authors, perspectives, and time periods. By

	<p>inclusion of students' background.</p>			<p>representing a wide range of student interests and perspectives, these texts develop student curiosity, while also building skills and content knowledge.</p> <p>In 8th grade, students encounter historical figures who broke through barriers, including Katherine Johnson, the brilliant mathematician who helped launch America into space; Ada Lovelace, whose thinking laid the foundation for modern day computing; and Jesse Owens, who “gave the lie” to Hitler’s supremacist ideologies at the 1936 Olympics. Students also consider seminal works by a diverse range of authors including Frederick Douglass, Amy Tan, Mary Shelley, Harriet Jacobs, Kaitlyn Greenidge, Art Spiegelman, and Robert Hayden.</p> <p>In 7th grade, students focus on people and characters pushing back against the society around them, as they examine the choices faced by Ji-li Jiang during the Chinese Cultural Revolution; consider the dynamic ways in which the Younger family shapes their own futures in <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>; explore how the choice between young love and other loyalties in <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> translates across cultures; and analyze how iconic artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera shaped their artwork to reflect their individual experiences, the politics and struggles that surrounded them, and their</p>
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				<p>Mexican heritage and culture.</p> <p>In grade 6, students focus on “mischief makers” whose questions, actions, or methods are innovative and lead to surprising, and often heroic outcomes. From Dahl’s out-of-place Norwegian schoolboy in a British school system in <i>Boy: Tales of Childhood</i>, to Arachne asserting herself in front of Minerva in Ovid’s version of the Arachne myth, to the Garza sisters’ bold and heroic journey into the Mexico of their ancestors in <i>Summer of the Mariposas</i>, students analyze how the seemingly less powerful make their stand.</p> <p>In addition, the digital Amplify Library offers a curated collection of more than 700 classic and contemporary texts that span a full range of genres, topics, and cultural perspectives—a diversity meant to support students as they develop literacy skills and foster a love of reading. Our collection of books comprises a wide range of subjects and authors, including Walter Mosley, Zora Neale Hurston, and Sonia Sotomayor. Amplify has also created and included in the Library full novel study guides to accompany a variety of middle school favorites. Several of these guides were created in partnership with the organization Multicultural Classroom, and provide a range of activities in which students make direct connections to their own experiences,</p>
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				<p>communities, and society. These guides also include discussion of the social issues at the core of a text and an action project where students take on issues anchored in elements of each book’s story.</p> <p>Where to look:</p> <p>Amplify ELA Program Guide, Amplify ELA supports diverse, inclusive classrooms, pp. 12–13</p> <p>Grade 6: 6E: Summer of the Mariposas, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 11, Activities 2–5</p> <p>Poetry in America: Grade 6, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 3, Activity 1</p> <p>Grade 7: Amplify ELA Grade Overviews: Grade 7 Curriculum Map</p> <p>7B: Character & Conflict, Sub-unit 2, Lesson 12, Activities 2–4</p> <p>Grade 8: Amplify ELA Grade Overviews: Grade 8 Curriculum Map</p> <p>8A: Perspectives & Narrative, Sub-unit 3, Lesson 6, Activities 2 and 3</p>
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<p>D. Equity</p>	<p>Materials provide discourse and perspectives are presented in a variety of inclusive ways that honor students from historically underserved backgrounds, create cultural bias-free, stereotype free, and barrier free instruction for every student.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>0</p> <p>Amplify ELA ensures that students see themselves affirmed in the curriculum and have the opportunity to explore and affirm the contributions of a range of cultures, backgrounds, and identities, recognizing that all walks of life are relevant and important. Amplify’s culturally diverse collection of authors, protagonists, and topics ensures that texts and tasks are relevant and relatable. The core middle school ELA lessons expose students to a diverse array of text types, genres, authors, cultures, and time periods. The depth, breadth, and diversity of texts and activities ensures that students see themselves, their families, classmates, and communities affirmed in the program.</p> <p>Throughout the development of materials, Amplify has worked to ensure that no text questions represent any cultural bias. Content has been field tested extensively in a variety of school settings with a variety of student profiles.</p> <p>Amplify ELA provides barrier-free instruction that was built on the principles of Universal Design for Learning and reviewed by CAST, a nonprofit education research and development organization. Each lesson was designed with UDL principles, ensuring that students can access text through a variety of modalities. Amplify provides access to</p>
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				<p>universal supports such as point-of-use audio for all core texts, embedded definitions for critical vocabulary, accessible background documents, and multi-language glossaries, among others. Amplify ELA gives all students extensive opportunities to work with and meet grade-level standards.</p> <p>In cases when Amplify’s Universal Design cannot meet the needs of all learners, the program provides the core level of activities plus five levels of differentiation and other supports for all students—from English Language Learners, to students with disabilities, to gifted learners.</p> <p>Where to look:</p> <p>Amplify ELA Program Guide, Strong supports for academic excellence, pp. 76–81</p> <p>Grade 6: 6C: The Chocolate Collection, Sub-unit 2, Lesson 1, Activities 3–5</p> <p>6E: Summer of the Mariposas, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 16, Activity 2</p> <p>Grade 7: 7B: Character & Conflict, Unit Guide: Planning for the Unit, Reading and Writing Assignments</p>
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					<p>7E: The Frida & Diego Collection, Sub-unit 3, Lesson 1, Activities 2–6</p> <p>Grade 8:</p> <p>8B: Liberty & Equality, Sub-unit 3, Lesson 1, Activity 2</p> <p>8E: Holocaust: Memory & Meaning, Sub-unit 4, Lesson 4, Activity 4</p> <p>Click through Differentiation levels in the drop down menu.</p>
E. Student Voice	Materials provide the opportunity for students to work cooperatively or share their learning experiences, strengths, backgrounds, interests, and needs are deeply interwoven throughout the lesson.	2	1	0	<p>Amplify ELA targets student engagement and leverages an adolescent’s natural inclinations toward collaboration, exploration, and autonomy. This can be seen across the Amplify ELA curriculum in the careful selection of engaging texts that appeal to student interests; in collaborative activities; and in student-led, inquiry-based immersive, interactive learning experiences.</p> <p>Amplify lessons provide regular opportunities for students to practice and benefit from sharing their thoughts, backgrounds, and experiences in academic conversation, more formal discussions and debates, and prepared performances and presentations. Students also engage in regular writing and sharing routines that support a collaborative environment where students can learn from each other as they develop their unique voices.</p>

				<p>The Amplify ELA curriculum is also designed to consider students' learning experiences, strengths, and needs, and to provide appropriate challenge and access for all students. This approach ensures that all students can fully participate in grade-level activities. The program was built on the principles of Universal Design for Learning and reviewed by CAST, a nonprofit education research and development organization. Texts which students might initially consider difficult are made compelling and comprehensible as students experience them through a variety of multimedia activities, including audio or video assets and unique apps. In cases when Amplify's Universal Design cannot meet the needs of all learners, the program provides embedded scaffolds and materials that enable teachers to deliver differentiated instruction to help each and every student meet grade-level standards. In addition, Amplify's lessons provide a variety of ways for students to work with text and demonstrate their understanding, from writing, to drawing, to performing, to working with Amplify's educational apps and experiential Quests.</p> <p>Where to look:</p> <p>Grade 6: 6B: Mysteries & Investigations, Sub-unit 2, Lesson 2, Differentiation</p>
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	Materials provide learning and tasks that is predominantly student centered.	2	1	0	<p>Amplify ELA is built on the conviction that equitable instruction is vital to an effective program—that curricula must provide all students with equitable opportunities to achieve academic success, that texts and tasks must be relevant to culturally diverse classrooms, and that students’ voices and ideas should be at the center of learning.</p> <p>Amplify ELA lessons are structured to be student-centered. Daily lesson structures include collaborative close reading activities followed by performance tasks. Performance tasks include responding to writing prompts, during which students are able to develop, apply, and share their ideas with largely individualized support from the</p>

				<p>teacher. Other performance tasks include fishbowl discussions, performances, Socratic seminars, and debates. These varied activities allow students to contribute their ideas, concerns, and questions and establish an intellectual and supportive classroom culture.</p> <p>Where to look:</p> <p>Grade 6: 6C: The Chocolate Collection, Sub-unit 4, Lesson 2, Activities 2–7</p> <p>6E: Summer of the Mariposas, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 19, Activity 4</p> <p>Grade 7: 7A: Red Scarf Girl & Narrative, Sub-unit 3, Lesson 9, Activities 5–6</p> <p>7C: Brain Science, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 5, Activity 5</p> <p>Grade 8: 8C: Science & Science Fiction, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 9, Activity 4</p> <p>8F: The Space Race Collection, Sub-unit 4, Lesson 2, Activities 2–4</p>
<i>Column Totals</i>				

Amplify.

OVERALL SCORE		
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Criterion A - Accessibility

Provides opportunities for every student to express ideas through various learning modalities and creates space to tailor content to the interests and concerns of the student.

Criterion B - Connections

Students connect learning experiences to social, political, or environmental real-life representations that affect them, their lives, and enact change.

Criterion C - Culturally Centered

Resources are diverse in authorship and philosophy and reflect the diversity in culture, languages, traditions, beliefs, values, and customs.

Criterion D - Equity

Resources intentionally minimize dominant discourses, deficit perspectives, and possible biases in instruction, so students from historically underserved backgrounds (e.g., students from poverty, students with disabilities, students of various genders/sexual orientations, students of various races and ethnicities, students from different cultures and religions) have access and can participate as readily as those from dominant backgrounds.

Criterion E - Student Voice

Engages students in critical reflections using students' cultural competence through learning about and developing their own identity and the identity of other cultures and the community.