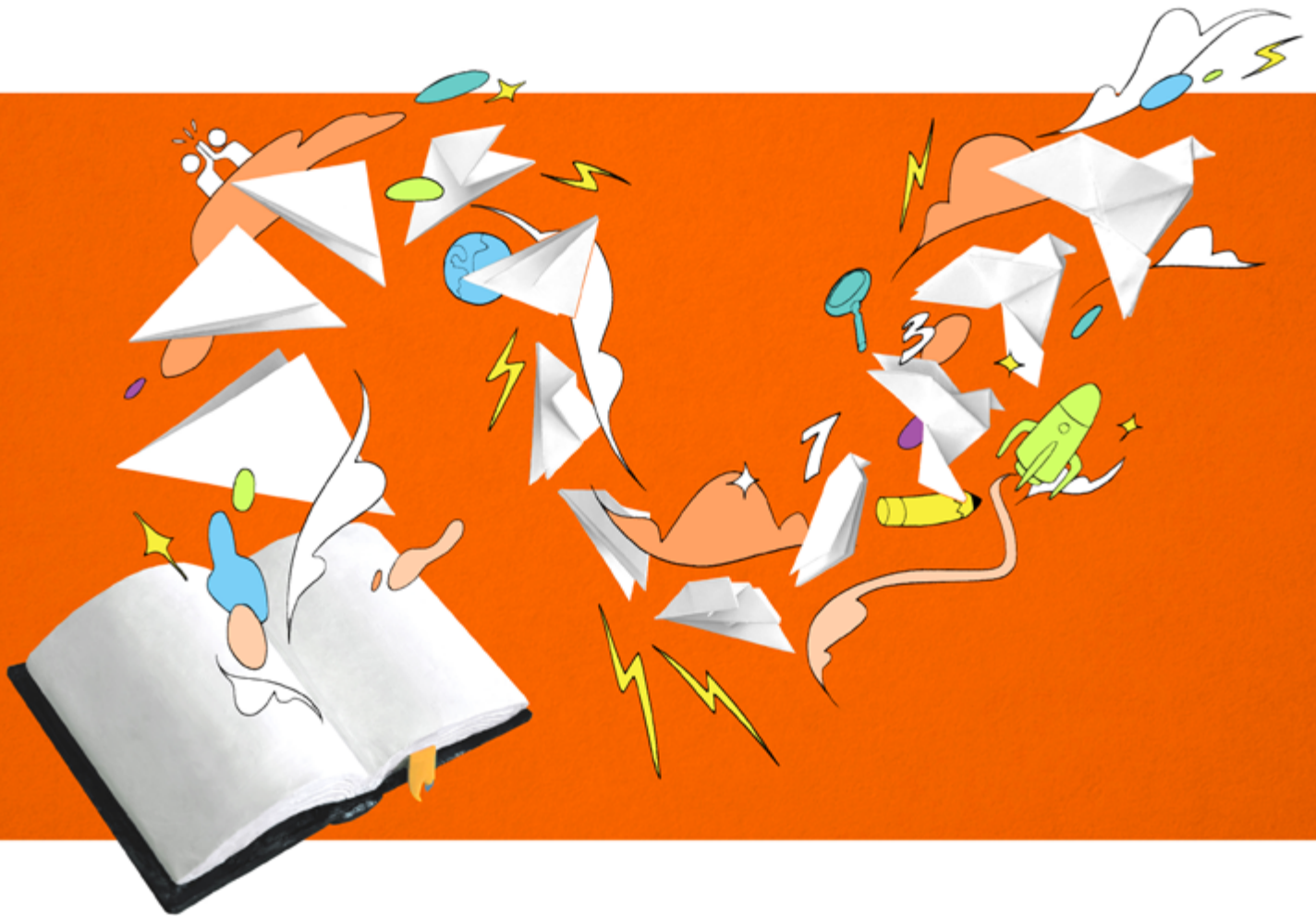


Amplify.

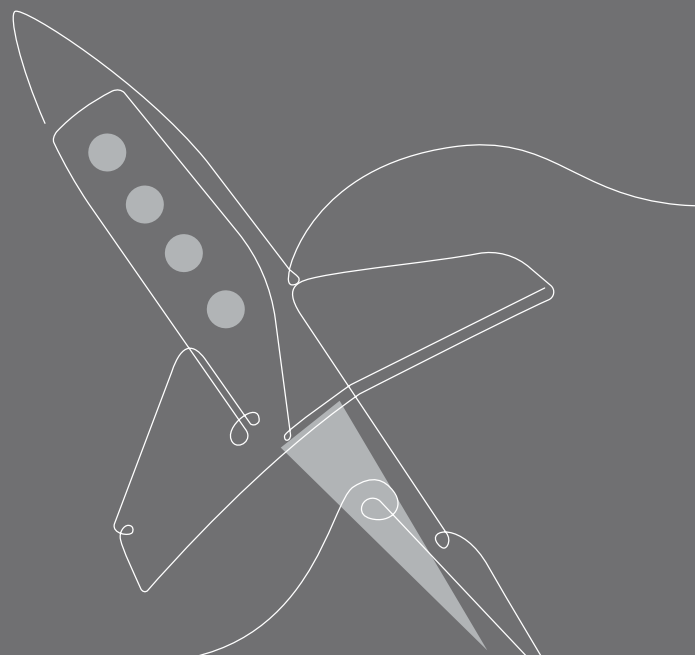
# DECIDE: 6 tips for a successful curriculum adoption

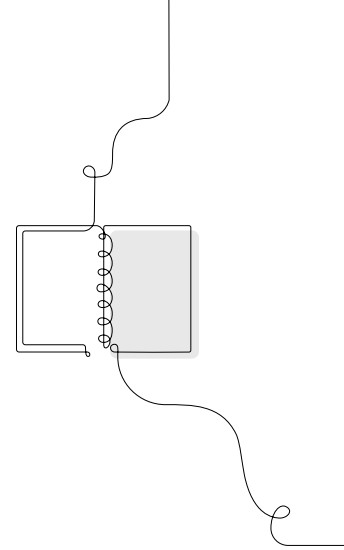


A curriculum adoption is a heavy lift. You've got to evaluate multiple programs and build consensus among diverse stakeholders—all while managing communication, scheduling, and people.

**We're here to help!**

We talked to leaders like you to find out what makes curriculum adoptions go smoothly. Use these insights to help you DECIDE on a new curriculum, addressing the needs of today and investing in your students for years to come.





## TIP 1

### Design the process.

Planning the process is important. Before you get started, take the time to think through these questions: What are the phases in your schedule? What dependencies exist? Which deadlines are set in stone and which have wiggle room? When something unpredictable happens, in the process or in the educational environment, your plan will function as a framework you can adjust as you move forward.

## TIP 2

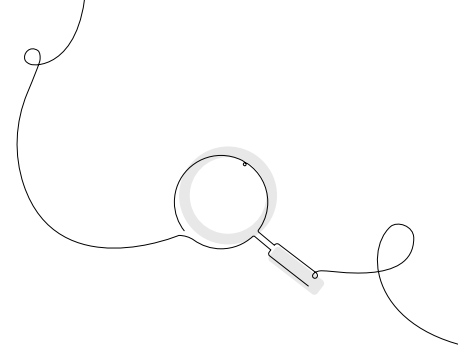
### Experience the programs.

You know you need to evaluate each program, but consider exactly how your committee will do that, and how disagreements will be resolved. Ask publishers to go beyond presentations and samples. For instance, feel free to ask your list of finalist publishers to demonstrate a sample lesson as if you're in the classroom (in a video call or otherwise). Expect to review both digital and print materials, and be sure to clarify how the whole team can have access.

## TIP 3

### Convene a dream team.

The right team can make a complex adoption easier. Group dynamics are important, but think about how you will solicit individual feedback as well. Make sure to include both born consensus-builders and squeaky-wheel naysayers who will ask the tough questions. Extend invitations to educators who are plugged into and represent the diverse communities in your school or district.



#### TIP 4

### Investigate short-term and long-term needs.

The decisions you make in a curriculum adoption last for years. What curriculum features could help you meet this moment—but also invest in your students' future? What do your teachers want and need? Make sure to incorporate relevant new data, such as, this year's back-to-school reading assessments (if adopting reading programs), and look at programs with a long-term lens. Discuss with the committee how well your current instructional philosophy aligns with your short-term and long-term goals. What's working, and what's a philosophy or approach worth exploring further? Record your observations and conclusions in one shared guiding document for team reference, for example, you could conduct a SWOT analysis of your current program.

#### TIP 5

### Develop the right rubric.

Using a rubric not only helps you measure what matters, but also ensures that your entire team measures the same things in the same way. Customize a scoring guide to evaluate each program in a consistent manner using the requirements that mean the most to you. As you begin, start with this question: Is the rubric aligned with the overall values and initiatives of the district? Districts commonly use the **EQuIP rubrics** as starting points when reviewing ELA, math, and science. Feel free to ask publishers to pre-fill these out for you to show you how their programs do (or do not) meet the criteria.

#### TIP 6

### Establish consensus among your stakeholders.

How you make your final decision is a process unto itself. Determine in advance how you will resolve disagreements together. What happens if at the end of the review, there isn't a clear favorite? Do you require 100 percent consensus to select your final curriculum? How will you break a tie if there is one? How will school board members and the local community contribute? Deciding in advance on how to agree will help minimize conflict, especially during a complex process, and will set you up for a smoother path forward.