

Digital Content Standards and Expectations

TRANSFORMING TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Houston Independent School District (HISD)'s efforts to provide effective personalized learning and differentiated instruction to students require the purposeful integration of platforms, resources, and tools. As part of that work, HISD has implemented a learning management system (LMS) from [itslearning](#) (through the 2021-2022 school year) and [Canvas](#) (Instructure) starting in the 2022-2023 school year. HISD has adopted the open standards of [IMS Global](#) for learning standards, rostering, performance monitoring, and other data sharing.

As HISD acquires and develops new instructional materials and resources, the district intends to ensure that users can search for, access, and engage with resources to the fullest. To provide those benefits, the district insists that digital resource vendors provide their materials in ways that conform to the district-adopted standards. For resources provided via a vendor's online platform, the district expects the availability of single sign-on (SSO) access via IMS Global [LTI 1.1](#) or the preferred [LTI 1.3 Advantage](#) standards, or via [Clever Instant Login](#) (based on OAuth 2.0 standards).

Device Agnostic and Platform Neutral: All digital resources must be device-agnostic and platform neutral, without condition. For all digital resources, vendors must provide HISD the license to load the digital resource into the district LMS for use in the district's PK-12 educational program. Such a license must be granted for the entire subscription period.

Accessibility/Universal Design: All digital materials must be offered in a format that allows users to access the materials based on accessibility needs and preferences for all HISD students. Specifically, digital resources must conform to the technical standards of the [Federal Rehabilitation Act, Section 508](#). Also, online content must conform to [WCAG 2.0, Level AA](#) standards.

Licensing: HISD expects digital instructional materials providers to provide the district written permission to use portions of the providers' materials in district curriculum documents, assessments, and other instructional and training resources – in both print and digital format(s) – for the life of the adoption (or for the subscription period purchased), with the understanding that HISD's rights to use such materials are limited to in-district, non-commercial use only. Materials for which such rights are requested include, but are not limited to, reading passages, illustrations, charts, graphs, maps, videos, recordings, and assessment items.