Knowledge Map

SAMPLE REPORT

Key Findings

The “Key Findings” section offers high-level results and recommendations. For instance, we might find that the curriculum’s most important strength is that it exposes students to a variety of literary forms (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and biography), and the most striking weaknesses is an absence of anchor texts and the omission of challenging, and inspiring, primary sources.

The section includes partner-informed policy recommendations. For example, if the district operates with a high degree of school- and educator-level autonomy, but the curriculum itself is weak, we might recommend that:

- **The district work in concert with school leaders and educators to develop a district-wide adoption policy that will deliver the highest-quality curricula to the district’s children, or**
- **The district work with its principals and teachers to make them aware of this report, EdReports’ evaluations of curricula, and the importance of high-quality instructional materials.**¹

If, by contrast, the charter management organization can set policy across the network, and the current curriculum is found to be extremely weak, we might recommend that:

- **The CMO prepare key stakeholders to conduct a curriculum review and eventual adoption based on available evidence from EdReports; and**
- **The CMO allocate budgetary resources to support implementation with in-depth professional development on the adopted curriculum itself.**

Sample Heat Maps

A critical gateway question is, “how much exposure do children receive to each important domain of knowledge and of topics within them?” The Heat Maps indicate coverage at the topical level. For instance, across K-5, we might find that there is strong knowledge-building in Social and Emotional Growth:

![Elementary Heat Map]

….but insufficient knowledge-building in American History and Geography:

![American History & Geography Heat Map]

Or in the middle-school curriculum, we might find average coverage in the Social Sciences (Politics, Economics, Sociology):

![Social Sciences Heat Map]
...but weak coverage of English Literature:

Quality and Coherence

The Institute also reviews each unit for its coherence and quality. The quality score reflects the individual text-level review, averaged across the unit's entire text set. The coherence graphs illustrate the extent to which the knowledge build of the anchor text is reinforced by the non-anchor texts. In units that do not have an anchor text, the highest-quality text is used as such.
For example, we might find that the first-grade units are, on average, of only modest quality and varying coherence, with the highest-rated unit as follows:

...or that the lowest-quality unit in Grade 5 is Unit 2:

Partners receive a grade-by-grade analysis, with visuals, detailed descriptions of the highest- and lowest-scoring units in each, and appendices.

The final report provides a robust landscape analysis of the knowledge build that is possible across the K-12 curriculum, actionable data about unit quality and coherence, and recommendations that education leaders can leverage to promote the highest-quality ELA curriculum for the benefit of student learning.