

# Teaching in a time of change

## How do teachers spend their classroom time?

### Report summary

#### Context

- ▶ Judging from the education news headlines over the past several years, it would be hard to escape the conclusion that traditional core curriculum is probably doomed, while classroom time and dollars are increasingly being spent on new, digital supplemental tools.
- ▶ But it is worth taking a step back to ask the question: what are teachers actually using in their classrooms?
- ▶ The EY-Parthenon team sought to answer this question through extensive primary research with teachers around the country, including a nationwide survey of teachers garnering 836 respondents.

#### Key findings

##### 1. Contrary to popular belief, core curriculum materials are still the primary resource that teachers utilize in their classrooms.

- ▶ Teachers spend **43%** of their classroom time on core curriculum, relative to **27%** of time on materials they created or sourced themselves and **22%** on supplemental materials.
- ▶ Teachers also reported turning to core curriculum first to source content and noted that core curriculum is “most important” relative to other types of materials.
- ▶ **69%** of teachers across demographic groups reported using a textbook at least once per week.

##### 2. However, core curriculum’s position is not necessarily safe in the long term.

- ▶ Teachers resoundingly rated core curriculum behind teacher-sourced materials and supplemental materials in terms of effectiveness.
- ▶ Teachers also reported that they would “prefer to spend more time” on teacher-sourced materials and supplemental materials, and less time on core curriculum.

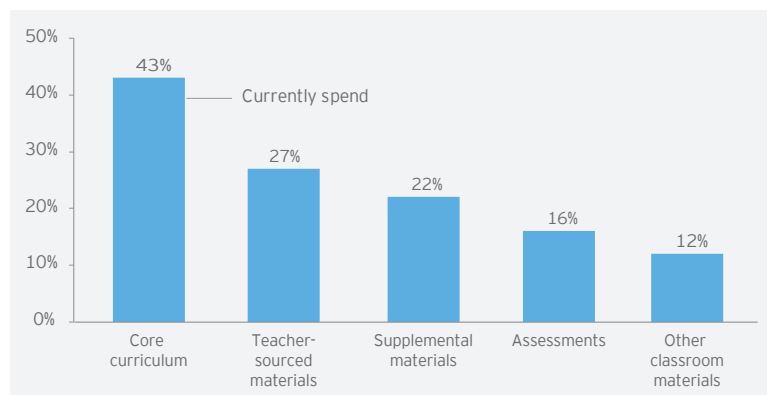
##### 3. A substantial amount of core curriculum usage appears to be driven by district requirements.

- ▶ Among teachers with a district requirement, 57% report utilizing core curriculum daily, compared with 29% of those without a requirement.
- ▶ Our report also groups teachers into “clusters” utilizing cluster analysis, and found that the district core requirement heavily influences whether teachers utilize core curriculum materials.

#### Implications

- ▶ For core curriculum providers, there may be an opportunity to “rightsize” offerings that let teachers choose only what they really want and need (primarily, a scope/sequence and baseline level of instruction).
- ▶ Supplemental providers have a clear opportunity to take advantage of more flexible spending and a positive perception of these materials – as well as an opportunity to become even more central to teacher workflow.

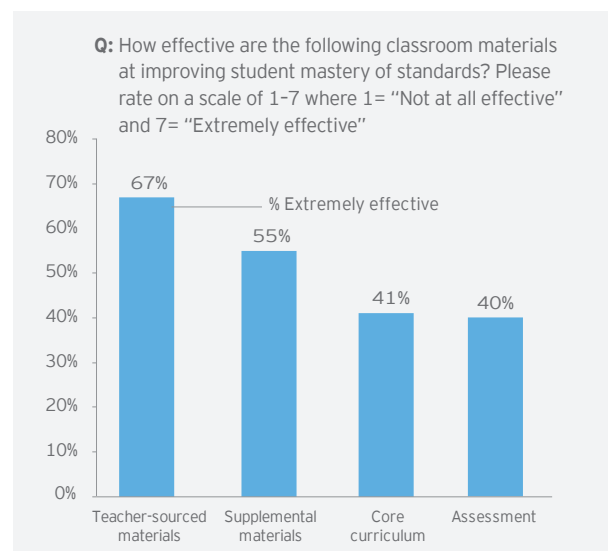
Figure 1: Time spent using classroom materials



Note: All teachers do not use all categories of classroom materials; thus, averages across the categories will sum to more than 100%.

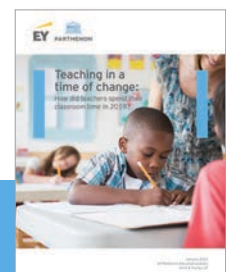
Source: EY-Parthenon teacher survey (June 2019).

Figure 2: Effectiveness of classroom materials



Source: EY-Parthenon teacher survey (June 2019).

Learn more from the full report at [parthenon.ey.com](http://parthenon.ey.com).



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