

GALE IN CONTEXT: FOR EDUCATORS

Meets Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Tier 4 Evidence Rating

WHAT IS GALE IN CONTEXT: FOR EDUCATORS?

Gale In Context: For Educators is an online curriculum and instructional tool for all who touch on teaching and learning in schools, including teachers, curriculum leaders, technology-integration specialists, and librarians. *For Educators* combines high-quality sources with curriculum-aligned lesson plans to support personalized learning, literacy, English language learners (ELL), and more.

WHAT IS AN ESSA TIER RATING?

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Tiers of Evidence is a framework for choosing evidence-based tools, programs, interventions, and practices that have promise in promoting positive student outcomes.

GALE IN CONTEXT: FOR EDUCATORS ACHIEVES TIER 4 RATING

To receive a Tier 4 ESSA rating, *Gale In Context: For Educators* must demonstrate a rationale that meets three standards, including (1) a clear logic model that explains the reason for the product design and how it will produce the desired outcomes, (2) a research basis that supports the pathways of change, and (3) an effort to study and disseminate impact. As outlined to the right, *For Educators* meets these standards by encouraging innovation, drawing on evidence-based practices, and demonstrating a commitment to ongoing research and improvement.



STANDARD 1—A WELL-DEFINED LOGIC MODEL

Working with McREL International, Gale, part of Cengage Group, developed a logic model that clearly identifies the unique inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and external factors associated with the implementation of *Gale In Context: For Educators* in schools.



STANDARD 2—A ROBUST RESEARCH BASIS

Accessible Resources Reduce Planning Time and Stress and Improve Student Outcomes

Not having enough time to prepare lessons and/or spending too much time preparing lessons can lead to increased stress for educators.^{1,2} Educators with high levels of stress are overall less effective, which translates to poorer academic and social outcomes for students.³ *Gale In Context: For Educators* provides easy access to standards-based resources for lesson planning across a wide variety of subject areas and grade levels, which can assist K-12 educators in their classroom instruction.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration Tools Improve Student Academic Outcomes

Team-based, interdisciplinary lesson planning in schools has been associated with improved academic outcomes when compared to where such practices are absent.⁴ However, educators' time is often an obstacle to collaboration.⁵ In addition to increasing individual use of interdisciplinary resources, *Gale In Context: For Educators* is designed to facilitate interdisciplinary teams' online collaboration via shareable content and adaptable lessons.

1. Merrimack College, *1st Annual Merrimack College Teacher Survey: 2022 Results*, https://ts24.formsite.com/edweek/images/WP-Merrimack_College-Todays_Teachers_Are_Deeply_Disillusioned_Survey_Data_Confirms.pdf.

2. Richards, Jan, "Teacher Stress and Coping Strategies: A National Snapshot." *The Educational Forum*, June 27, 2012.

3. Patricia Jennings and Mark T. Greenberg, "The Prosocial Classroom: Teacher Social and Emotional Competence in Relation to Student and Classroom Outcomes," *Review of Educational Research*, March 1, 2009.

4. Mertens, Steven, et al., "Common Planning Time," *Middle School Journal*, May 2010.

Current, Relevant, and Accessible Curriculum Supports Personalized Learning

Students come into the classroom with various abilities, needs (language ability, learning disabilities, etc.), and interests. When students' needs are met, learning outcomes tend to follow. For example, font—particularly focused letter spacing—is associated with faster reading speeds for students who are dyslexic.⁶ Likewise, when content is relevant to students, they are more likely to be engaged and perform better.⁷ *Gale In Context: For Educators* offers accessibility tools, such as a font for students with dyslexia, translation capabilities, adjustable font size and colors, and read-along features to meet learners' individual needs. Moreover, *For Educators* offers easy access to current and relevant resources that speak to students' diverse interests, a key element in increasing student engagement.



STANDARD 3—AN EFFORT TO STUDY AND DISSEMINATE IMPACT

Gale has commissioned McREL International to design and implement an efficacy study of *Gale In Context: For Educators*. The efficacy study will help determine ways of improving and refining *For Educators* for future users and students. It will also show which elements of *For Educators* are most effective for specific school and educational contexts. To learn more about this resource and view future results, visit gale.com/foreducators.

5. See note 1 above.

6. Ari, Omer, "Dyslexia Fonts: What Postsecondary Instructors Need to Know," *Journal of College Reading and Learning*, November 16, 2021.

7. Institute of Medicine. *Engaging Schools: Fostering High School Students' Motivation to Learn*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2004. <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/10421/engaging-schools-fostering-high-school-students-motivation-to-learn>.

K-12 DISTRICT OR INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

GALE IN CONTEXT: FOR EDUCATORS LOGIC MODEL

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INPUTS

Resources that go into implementing *Gale In Context: For Educators*

Human Resources

- Content team
- Product team
- Customer success and training team
- School champions /pilot team
- Teachers
- Students

Technology Resources

- Online platform
- Functions and tools:
 - Learning management system (LMS) integration
 - Search, curation, and customizable functions for teachers
 - Accessibility tools for students (e.g., translations)
 - Sharing and collaboration tools
 - Highlights and notes
 - Citation and downloading tools

Curriculum Resources

- Classroom-ready digital resources:
 - Lesson plans and activities
 - News articles
 - Academic articles
 - Summaries
 - Images
 - Primary sources
 - Videos
 - Websites
 - Experiments
 - Biographies
- eBooks
- Infographics
- Critical-thinking prompts
- Content specific (e.g., English language arts, social studies, science)
- Grade-level specific
- Curriculum-aligned content (state, national standards)
- Lexile-based content

External Factors

- Access to technology at school sites
- School, district, and state policies
- Student and school staff demographics and needs
- Support for implementation at school sites (administrative, social, material)
- Major social, geographic, and political events
- Time for onboarding

ACTIVITIES

Components of *Gale In Context: For Educators* that use the resources to attain the desired outcomes

- Content team evaluates content gaps and adds new topics, new sources, and new lesson plans

- Product team adds new functions and features based on market feedback or educator needs
- Educator training and support:
 - Train-the-trainer approach

- School/teacher support via built-in learning center and product and customer support
- Content- and curriculum-specific support
- Onboarding resources, including flyers, PowerPoints, and others

OUTPUTS

Observable products and data of the activities for tracking implementation

- What types of training opportunities are provided? (e.g., see-it-in-action modules and blogs)
- What training opportunities and topics are most useful?

- How often are learning center and product/customer supports used and for what reasons?
- What percentage of schools have active users of *Gale In Context: For Educators*?

- How often does feedback inform changes or lead to improvements?

SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

6 months to 1 year, depending on school or district size

- Increase awareness and exposure to *Gale In Context: For Educators*
- Provide initial structured support to school and teachers

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

1 to 2 years, depending on school or district size

- Increase use of *Gale In Context: For Educators* across the school and content areas
- Provide more structured support to school and teachers

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

2 to 3 years, depending on school or district size

- Full school (or district) adoption
- School/district continued usage
- Creation of *Gale In Context: For Educators* user group across schools or content areas

Considerations of formative findings for implementation improvement

K-12 SCHOOL LEVEL

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External Factors

- Access to technology at school sites
- School, district, and state policies
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- Support for implementation at school sites (administrative, social, material)
- Major social, geographic, and political events
- Time for onboarding

ACTIVITIES

Components of *Gale In Context: For Educators* that use the resources to attain the desired outcomes

- District provides proactive encouragement and supports for teachers to engage with *For Educators*
- Schools select champions or pilot team to be the point person(s) for *For Educators*
- Teachers can draw on an array of classroom-ready digital resources to curate lesson plans based on curriculum standards, Lexile range, content area, grade level, etc.
- Teachers can set up *For Educators* to personalize usage (e.g., notes, annotations)
- Teachers, department heads, or curriculum directors can copy a folder or create a collaborative folder with other educators

OUTPUTS

Observable products and data of the activities for tracking implementation

- What percentage of teachers in schools use *Gale In Context: For Educators*?
- How often do teachers use *For Educators* in their lesson planning?
- What aspects of *For Educators* are used most by teachers?
- Why do teachers use *For Educators*?

SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

6 months to 1 year, depending on school or district size

- Teachers' awareness of *Gale In Context: For Educators* increases
- Teachers begin using *For Educators* for lesson planning and assessment
- Using *For Educators* saves teachers time
- *For Educators* makes collaboration between teachers easier

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

1 to 2 years, depending on school or district size

- Teachers' use of *Gale In Context: For Educators* increases
- *For Educators* allows departments to divide and conquer lesson planning for the year

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

2 to 3 years, depending on school or district size

- *Gale In Context: For Educators* is more intentionally integrated into lesson planning and curriculum
- Teachers continue to update curated curriculum based on student needs and current context
- Allows for cross-department curriculum plans
- Integrates soft skills, social and emotional learning, and diverse content

K-12 STUDENT LEVEL

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ACTIVITIES

Components of *Gale In Context: For Educators* that use the resources to attain the desired outcomes

- Through *Gale In Context*, students are provided immediate and easy access to the teacher's curated content
- Students are provided with accessibility tools (e.g., ReadSpeaker, translation, OpenDyslexic font) to navigate *Gale In Context*
- Students can draw on *Gale In Context* to conduct their own research and collaborate with peers via an LMS or external shared drive

OUTPUTS

Observable products and data of the activities for tracking implementation

- How are students interacting with *Gale In Context* resources?
- How often are resources used?
- What resources are used most by students?
- What accessibility tools are used most by students?
- How relevant/timely are the resources used by students?
- How are students engaging with critical-thinking prompts?

SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

6 months to 1 year, depending on school or district size

- Students complete tasks assigned with *Gale In Context: For Educators*
- Students engage with critical-thinking prompts
- Students use accessibility tools to support engagement with material
- Students find *Gale In Context* easy to use
- Students are curious about content and actively search for related content

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

1 to 2 years, depending on school or district size

- Use of *Gale In Context: For Educators* increases student:
 - Critical thinking
 - Comprehension
 - Engagement
 - Preparation for next grade level

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

2 to 3 years, depending on school or district size

- Student achievement increases
- More equitable achievement
- Students use *Gale In Context* to answer independent questions
- Students recommend *Gale In Context* as a trusted source to other students