CALIFORNIA CURRICULUM COLLABORATIVE

Launching Your Math Adoption: *Two New Tools To Support Winnowing & Investigation*

April 21, 2026

What is CalCurriculum?

CalCurriculum is a joint project of **UnboundEd** and **EdReports** and developed and tailored to support California educators. Our goal is to **help districts adopt and implement high-quality instructional materials (HQIM)** by providing independent reviews, actionable resources, and guidance tailored to California educators.

Our Beliefs

CalCurriculum believes that strong curriculum adoption begins with a shared vision of instruction and a transparent decision-making process. Through free tools and learning opportunities, we help districts understand the landscape of high-quality instructional materials and the best practices for adopting new materials.

Meet the Team

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In this session, we will...

- Overview the challenges navigating the CA math materials adoption list.
- Share two new tools meant to support LEAs in making easier decisions.
- Give participants an opportunity to provide feedback on the tools in a “live build” format.
- Answer questions you have about the tools.

Throughout the session, please use the Q&A feature in your Zoom toolbar to ask any questions that come up. We’ll answer questions during the “Questions” section toward the end of the webinar.

“We had months of work, several publisher presentations, and a group full of smart people but when it came time to do the deep review we knew we needed to do with our full committee, we were still looking 12 programs to choose from and no way to quickly narrow those options.”

Math Coordinator, Administrator
Large California Unified School District

70,000 students

20% Multilingual Learners

WHAT THEIR PROCESS LOOKED LIKE

Six months of work. No clear way to get through the list.

1

Leadership team formed

District leaders carving out time alongside their regular responsibilities to build a process from the ground up.

2

Publishers contacted

Outreach to multiple publishers, requesting sample materials & pricing while the team waited weeks for responses to trickle in.

3

Months passed

First pass review stretched across the school year. Momentum faded. Fatigue and worry set in.

4

Review & pilot approaching

Twelve programs still on the table. The committee is about to begin formal review and the process ahead feels as uncertain as the one behind them.

Adopting math materials in California is uniquely complex

- California operates under a local control model, meaning districts bear full responsibility for curriculum review, selection, and implementation without a state mandate directing their choices.
- The 2023 Mathematics Framework provides detailed guidance on what high-quality instruction should look like, but it is not a selection tool and does not advise districts on how to choose among approved options.
- The state adoption process establishes eligibility and compliance with state criteria but does not offer comparative evidence to help districts distinguish among programs or determine local fit.
- California's size and diversity means that county office support, educator expertise, and review capacity vary widely across the state.

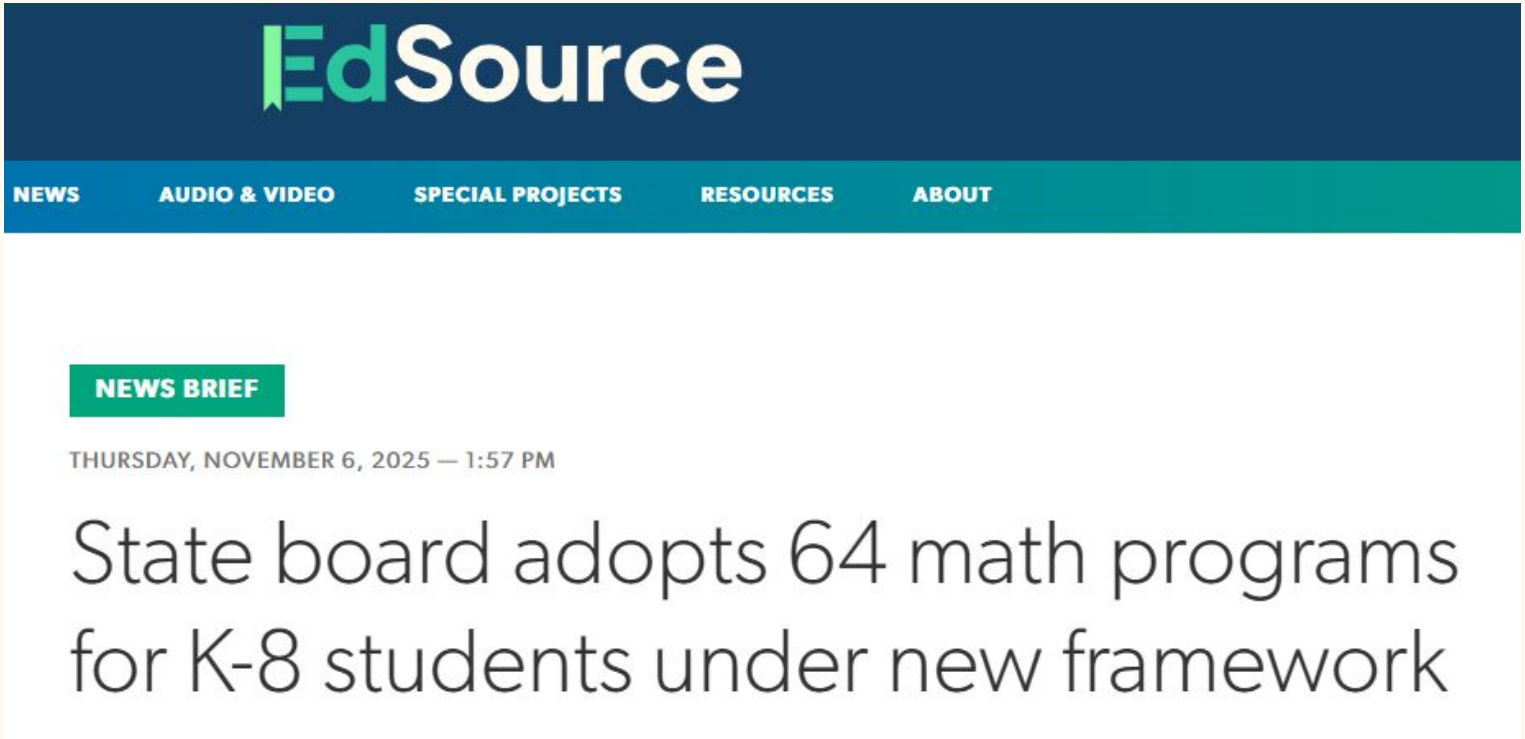
Where California districts lose confidence in their own process

Breakdown Point	What it sounds like
Too many programs, no clear way to compare	"We have 22 programs K-8 to look at. We do not have the time or the bandwidth to assess that many, and we have no way to quickly see how any of them measure up to our basic needs."
California-specific gaps get missed	"We have EdReports ratings, publisher presentations, and our own rubric scores but no single place where we can actually see these programs side by side against the framework and our criteria."
No way to see what could be best for an individual district's needs	“Our students and teachers have specific needs. We built our review process to look for them but we need some direction on where to start looking and how to compare what we are finding."

The conditions aren't making this easier

- 64 programs approved, all K-8 submissions accepted and the comparative work falls entirely on districts.
- Many programs in use today predate the 2023 Framework and a decade of market improvement which means there might be a big shift in practice for many CA teachers.
- District curriculum teams are small, managing multiple content areas, and expected to lead rigorous review without dedicated time or staffing.
- Most district leaders feel confident selecting materials but far fewer have a clear process for narrowing options or building a recommendation for their committees without seeming biased.

So what does this mean?



What if your committee had the right tools from the start?

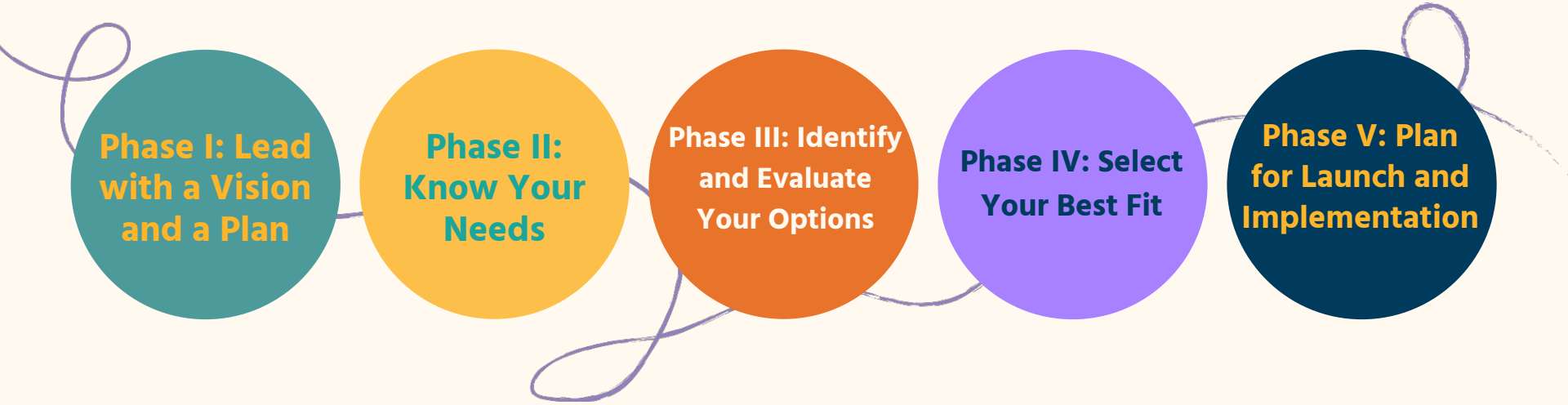
Math Listhub

To eliminate the time-consuming process of researching scattered curriculum information, enabling districts to efficiently narrow down from overwhelming options to a focused shortlist.

Between the Greens

To solve the challenge districts face when choosing between multiple highly-rated programs that appear similar on the surface, providing the nuanced comparative analysis needed to make confident final decisions based on what matters most to their unique context and priorities.

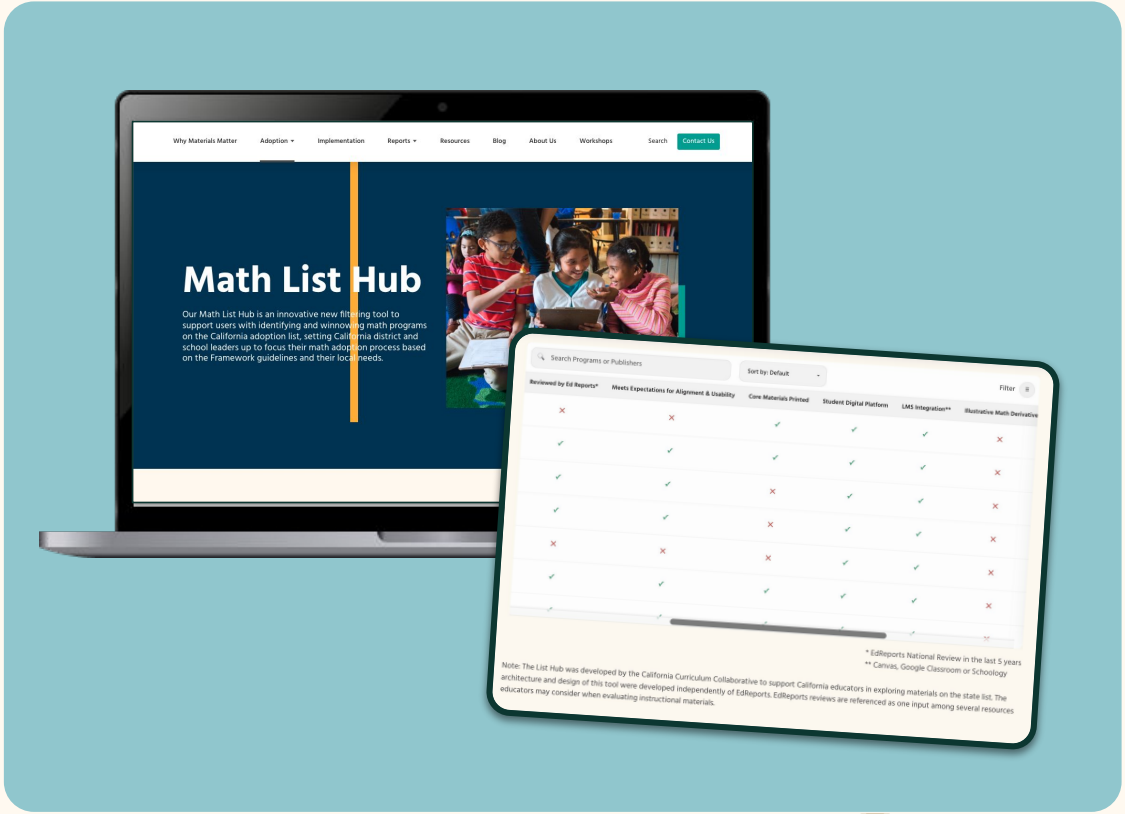
UnboundEd HQIM Adoption Phases



Math ListHub

Math ListHub

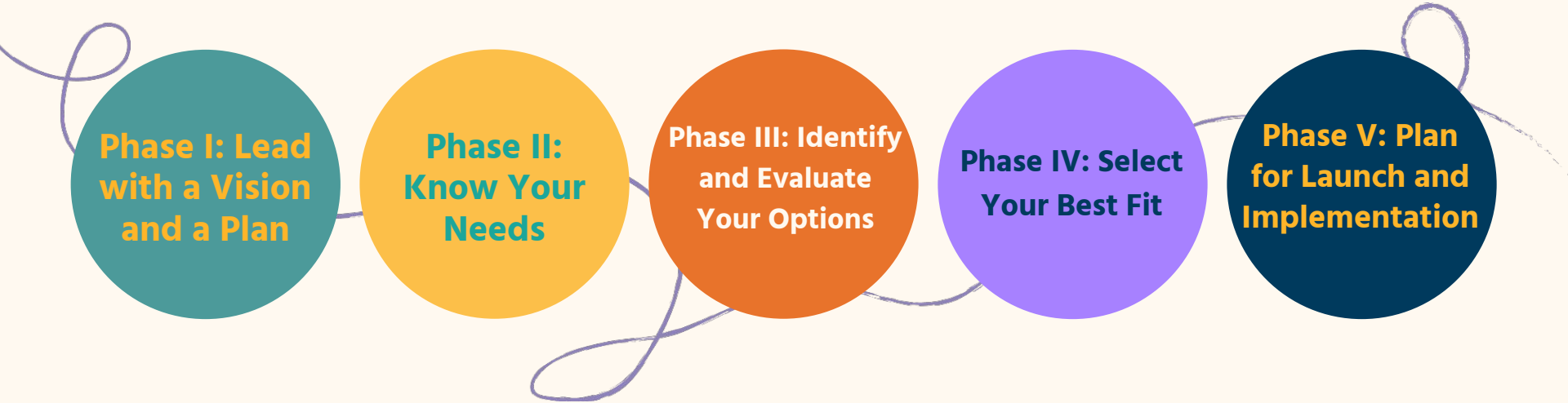
A fast, binary winnowing engine that helps districts decide which programs meet/don't meet their non-negotiables.



Key Features

- Centralizes basic program information in one place, saving districts time they'd otherwise spend chasing publishers for baseline details
- Anchors districts in non-negotiables (yes/no criteria) so they can quickly rule out options that don't meet minimum requirements
- Turns an overwhelming list into a manageable shortlist, faster, and with clearer justification

UnboundEd HQIM Adoption Phases



Between the Greens

Between the Greens

A deeper dive in those “high-quality” programs that help districts learn which strong option is the best fit.

Key Features

- Goes beyond “green” by examining how well materials support the California Math Framework vision (not only standards alignment, but instructional approach and quality signals that matter in California)
- Helps districts differentiate between strong options by surfacing meaningful tradeoffs and nuanced differences tied to district priorities

Downloadable Version

District Scenario

- Large California district, 50,000+ students, currently one year into a K-12 math adoption
- Middle school identified as the greatest need: inconsistent materials, student performance data, and teacher feedback all point to grades 6-8 as the place to start
- But this is not a standalone middle school adoption — whatever they select must be compatible with either a K-8 or 6-12 progression depending on where the broader review lands
- 24 state-approved programs are in play for grades 6-8 alone, and the team needs to get to 4 or 5 options their committee can meaningfully review and pilot
- A spreadsheet and publisher presentations are not enough — they need a principled way to filter by instructional fit, Framework alignment, and long-term pathway compatibility
- Once they have a short list, the committee needs evidence and structure to go deeper than first impressions and build a recommendation that holds up with stakeholders

Questions?

“Live Build” Survey

Your feedback is critical in our learning for the next iteration of the tools. Please take a few minutes to explore the tools and provide your thoughts and questions.

https://bit.ly/4tdEUPQ

Timeline for Tools Full Launch

Research with districts	Development of v1 Tools	Launch v1 of Tools	Feedback and Testing	Second Iteration
Fall of 2025	**Winter of 2026**	**March 2026**	**Spring of 2026**	**Summer of 2026**

Coming Up Soon

Today!

April 21

10:00-11:00

Launching Your Math Adoption: New Tools To Support Winnowing & Investigation

April 22

1:00-2:00

Planning Ahead for the Cost of Your Pilot: Guest Session with **Project Evident**

June 4

10:00-12:00

We Just Selected, Now What? Adoption Leadership Community of Practice

Thank you for joining today's session!

If you have additional questions, please email us at info@calcurriculum.org