State Instructional Materials Review Association
http://simra.us
"Alignment, Accessibility, Quality"

Dear Educational Patron,

May I introduce you to SIMRA, the State Instructional Materials Review Association. It is the mission of this organization to support efforts to evaluate and recommend quality instructional materials. Formerly known as the National Association of State Textbook Administrators (NASTA), SIMRA has been in serving state and local education agencies since 1946. It is currently composed of representatives from 22 member states, who communicate frequently via phone, email, and monthly webinars. SIMRA hosts a website at http://simra.us and participates in an annual conference to collaborate on the very best curriculum evaluation practices. The ultimate goal of our organization is to assist all educators in selecting the very best materials for individual and classroom instruction.

A focal point of recent discussion in SIMRA has been the advent of digital instructional materials. We have spent a great deal of time researching to determine criteria to be used in the evaluation of these items. A primary area of concern is the careful alignment of materials with core standards and objectives. Materials also should be accessible to all students and promote fair treatment of all ethnic and cultural groups. Finally, materials should be of the finest quality, reflecting the best trends in technology to engage students in current, real world experiences. There are many resources on our website with guidelines, directives, and common criteria for the selection of digital resources.

While our organization is in frequent contact with the publishing industry, SIMRA strives to provide an independent voice for the educational community. Student achievement is at the forefront of the actions of our organization, and we seek to find instructional materials that will best facilitate this. SIMRA does not dictate policy to its members, but seeks to enhance each state's ability to provide service through their own review process.

SIMRA is interested in collaboration with organizations who share in our vision and mission. To this end, we invite you to get better acquainted with us and share in the opportunity to improve education through the instructional materials review process. Please visit our website, and consider joining with us in collaboration regarding the process of instructional materials review. Many of our members represent local control states and are dedicated, as you are, to assisting educators in the selection of the very best instructional materials. We would love to converse with you and share the work that is being done in this area. There is no charge for membership in the organization, just a $100 annual fee should you choose to join with us in our annual conference.

We hope you will take the time to investigate the resources we offer and look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with you in the future.

Sincerely,
Alan Griffin
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