



Student Access: Grade Level Recommendations & Guidance

COMPASS provides a huge number of resources for our students – a full “online school library” for grades pre-K to pre-college! We often get questions about the best way to set up and provide access for different grade spans.

There is no one answer. Each school is different, as is each student. Further, some resources for younger students can be very helpful for student with special needs or English language learners. And some resources for older students will provide fascinating content for younger learners. How these are provided in your district’s or school’s single-sign-on environment is up to each local education agency.

In our training sessions, we at COMPASS present a segmenting of resources based on grade level and how the resources can support educational standards in various subjects. The following is a potential guide – but is by no means a final establishment of access.

And for educators (teachers as well as other educational staff), they ideally should have access to all resources.

If you want details about each of these resources, please look at the [State Library’s COMPASS website](#) and the [description of products and providers](#). If you have any comments or questions about these suggestions, please feel free to reach out to us – compass@library.ca.gov.

Elementary

Early elementary

- PebbleGo Science
- TeachingBooks
- Britannica School

- Britannica Escolar
- National Geographic Kids (Gale)
- Smithsonian Global Sounds (Alexander Street audio collection)*
- Classical Music in Video (Alexander Street video collection)*

Upper elementary (grades 4-6) (all previous, plus the following)

- CultureGrams (ProQuest, single resource view)
- SIRS Discoverer (ProQuest, single resource view)
- Gale Interactive: Science (specifically for earth science and paleontology)
- PBS (Alexander Street video collection)**
- Qwest TV collection (Alexander Street video collection)*

Middle School

- TeachingBooks
- Britannica School
- Britannica Escolar
- National Geographic Kids (Gale)
- CultureGrams (ProQuest, single resource view)
- SIRS Discoverer (ProQuest, single resource view)
- Research Companion (ProQuest, single resource view)
- Gale in Context: Environmental Studies
- Gale Interactive: Science
- American History in Video (Alexander Street video collection)*
- CNN collection (Alexander Street video collection)*

The following depend upon the sophistication of the classroom

- SIRS Issues Researcher (ProQuest, either as a single resource or in the Homework Central view)
- eLibrary (ProQuest, either single resource or in the Homework Central view)
- PBS (Alexander Street video collection)**
- Smithsonian Global Sounds (Alexander Street audio collection)*
- Audio Drama: LA TheatreWorks (Alexander Street audio collection)*
- All Alexander Street video collections*
- The Royal Shakespeare Company (Alexander Street video collection)*
- Theatre in Video (Alexander Street video collection)*
- Dance in Video (Alexander Street video collection)*

High School

All of the COMPASS resources are appropriate at the high school level. Some like PebbleGo or National Geographic Kids can be offered but are designed for younger students. High school students will likely utilize the following in their classes:

- TeachingBooks
- Britannica School
- Britannica Escolar
- Gale in Context: Environmental Studies
- Gale Interactive: Science
- ProQuest Homework Central***, which has direct links to
 - CultureGrams
 - SIRS Discoverer
 - PBS Video Collection
 - SIRS Issues Researcher
 - eLibrary
 - Research Companion
 - All Alexander Street video collections (there are over 10)
 - LA TheatreWorks audio plays
 - Smithsonian Global Sounds
 - ProQuest platform (academic resource that includes three historical drama text collections)
 - Alexander Street platform (main interface for all collections, including the dozen previously mentioned plus seven drama text collections)

Considerations

* Alexander Street is one main interface for video collections (videos only) or the all-encompassing multi-media view (video, audio, and text). Schools have the ability to provide links to separate collections one at a time, but technically the student will have access to all Alexander Street content and can browse the other collections.

** PBS is a mix of content for various age groups, from Arthur (pre-K) to Frontline (high school). We cannot segment by viewer age at this time. Also, once in the PBS collection through Alexander Street, students can browse and access other collections as well.

*** ProQuest Homework Central is an interface for every ProQuest and Alexander Street resource available. It was established for ease of use. All educators should have access to this view to find content to present in the classroom, and all content is appropriate for grades 9-12.

Whether all content should be accessible for all middle school students should be determined by the local education agency. The following resources can be made available as stand-alone resources: CultureGrams, SIRS Discoverer, SIRS Issues Researcher, eLibrary, and Research Companion. As noted above, while there can be a one-collection initial view of content in Alexander Street, users can browse and view other collections of anything hosted in this platform.