

The Screen Time Value Rubric

Four questions to decide which digital tools earn their place in the classroom.

Screen-time limits are spreading fast, and every digital resource now must prove it belongs. Use this rubric to score any tool on the four things that matter most. **Score each category from 0 to 4, then add them up for a total out of 16.**

1 Pick a tool to review

2 Score each area 0–4

3 Add up your total /16

4 Compare & decide

1

Instructional Value & Content Quality

Is the tool standards aligned and engaging?

SCORE /4

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: STANDARDS ALIGNMENT · CLEAR LEARNING GOALS · AGE-APPROPRIATE · OFFLINE ACTIVITIES

0–1 · Weak

No clear standards link; goals missing; wrong grade level; no offline activities

2 · Fair

Loosely aligned; vague goals; broad grade level range; few offline activities

3 · Strong

Aligned to standards; clear goals; age-appropriate; some offline activities

4 · Excellent

Clear alignment; measurable goals; age-appropriate; many offline activities

2

Evidence of Impact

Does it provide clear evidence of positive student outcomes?

SCORE /4

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: RESEARCH OR THIRD-PARTY BACKING · MEASURABLE OUTCOMES · PRE/POST DATA · EXTENSIVE LEARNING DATA LIBRARY

0–1 · Weak

No research or 3rd party backing; no outcomes claims; only usage data

2 · Fair

No backing; unproven outcome claims; little pre/post data; mostly usage data

3 · Strong

Some backing; measurable outcomes; pre/post data available; small library

4 · Excellent

Strong research base; 3rd-party awards; vast on-demand learning data

3

Accessibility & Usability

Can teachers and students easily use it?

SCORE /4

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: ACCESSIBILITY · EASY ROLLOUT · MINIMAL PREP · RESPONSIVE CUSTOMER SUPPORT

0–1 · Weak

Fails accessibility standards; long & complex rollout; much prep; no support

2 · Fair

Limited accessibility; complex rollout; moderate prep; limited support

3 · Strong

Accessible; easy roll out; low prep; available support

4 · Excellent

Accessible; easy rollout; minimal prep, responsive support; translated

4

Privacy, Security & Technical Fit

Is student data safe, and will it run on your systems?

SCORE /4

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: SECURE DATA PRACTICES · FERPA/COPPA/DISTRICT/STATE COMPLIANCE · WORKS ON DISTRICT DEVICES · RELIABLE PERFORMANCE

0–1 · Weak

Unclear/unsafe data practices; no compliance; device & reliability issues

2 · Fair

Basic data policy; minimal compliance; integration & reliability issues

3 · Strong

Sound data practices; compliant; works on most devices; reliable

4 · Excellent

Fully secure & transparent practices; compliant; proven; reliable; SSO-ready

Reading your total:

15–16: Earns its classroom time • 12–14: Investigate further
0–11: Reconsider

TOTAL SCORE
out of 16

A Worked Example: How a Proven Tool Scores

16/16

PERFECT FIT

Here is what a top-scoring resource looks like when you run it through the rubric. [Everfi's K-12 lessons](#) are a useful benchmark: free, research-backed, and built for exactly the screen-time pressure districts face today. Use this as a reference point when you score your own tools.

CATEGORY	HOW EVERFI MEASURES UP	SCORE
1. Instructional Value & Content Quality	Standards-aligned lessons across financial literacy, mental wellness, STEM, and more at no cost. Rigorous with clear learning goals; age-appropriate design; large library of offline lessons; genuinely engaging.	4
2. Evidence of Impact	Backed by research. Awarded the Digital Promise Product Certification. Teachers immediately see pre/post assessment data. Districts can access detailed reports showing learning gains as well as changes in attitudes and behaviors.	4
3. Accessibility & Usability	Meets recognized accessibility standards. Provides districts with a dedicated Everfi Lead to support an easy rollout (with free professional development and 1:1 trainings). Requires minimal teacher prep. Provides responsive 24/7 technical support. Resources translated in multiple languages. Awarded the ISTE Seal for content and learning experience.	4
4. Privacy, Security & Technical Fit	Fully secure & transparent data practices; compliant with federal, state, and district privacy requirements; SSO-ready. Trusted by more than 8,000 districts with a reliable platform that fits existing systems.	4
Total	High quality, proven, easy to implement, safe, and free — it satisfies screen-time pressure without losing what works.	16

Why the fourth category so often decides it

A tool can teach well and still stall at rollout if it mishandles student data or won't run on district hardware. Administrators carry that risk personally, which is why privacy, security, and technical fit can make or break an otherwise strong resource.

100+

Free, digital and offline life skills lessons

8,000+

Districts trust Everfi

10–20 min

Average length of Everfi's digital lessons

This rubric is a decision aid, not a certification. Scores reflect your own review of each tool against your district's standards, policies, and technical requirements. The example above is provided for illustration.



Bring Everfi to Your District
everfi.com/k-12/districts

NO COST RESOURCES

Equip Students with Essential Life Skills

Everfi® provides K–12 schools with a library of free educational resources addressing essential life skills topics like personal finance, workforce readiness, sustainability, and mental wellness, and prevention education. The standards-aligned curriculum is delivered through Everfi's learning platform with built-in assessments and automatic grading to save educators' time. Since 2008, Everfi has been a trusted solution for educators seeking to deliver the essential knowledge and skills students need to thrive in an ever-changing world.



Benefits for K–12 Schools



Interactive Digital Courses

Library of standards-aligned, research-based digital courses with interactive, real-world scenarios



Offline Lessons Available

Companion offline lessons, activities, and planning resources to bring the digital learning to life



Automatic Grading

Real-time reporting on Everfi's learning platform to see students' baseline knowledge and growth



Dedicated Regional Team

Personalized ongoing support, professional development, and trainings throughout the year

Trusted, High-Quality Products



1EdTech Data Privacy Certification

After a rigorous data privacy policy vetting process, Everfi earned 1EdTech's Data Privacy Certification. This recognition confirms Everfi's commitment to maintaining a high level of privacy standards.



Research-Based Learning Product Design Certification

Everfi's content library was validated by Digital Promise to have been designed based on learning science and empirical research. All Everfi courses readily fulfill the rigorous ESSA Level IV criteria for efficacy evidence.

Everfi Course Listing



Everfi's learning platform hosts a library of K-12 courses addressing essential life skills—available at no cost. The curriculum is standards-aligned, research-based, and includes both digital lessons as well as companion offline lesson to help bring the learning to life.

Topic Areas

- Financial Education
- STEM
- Health and Wellness
- History
- Workforce Readiness

§ Available in Spanish

¶ Available in French

Course Name	Grade Level	Topic Area(s)	At-A-Glance	Curriculum Length	
The Compassion Project®: Lower Elementary	2-4	●	Understanding the feelings of others, compassion, and practicing mindfulness	3 digital lessons (15 min each) - Up to 10 hr of offline learning	
The Compassion Project®: Upper Elementary	4-6	●	Growth mindset, self-care, managing strong emotions, and empathy	3 digital lessons (10 min each) - Up to 2 hr of offline learning	¶
Healthier Me: Intro to Wellness™	4-6	●	Nutrition, exercise, hygiene, sleep, and the importance of social connection	3 digital lessons (15 min each) - Up to 3 hr of offline learning	§
Vault: Understanding Money®	4-6	● ●	Financial decision-making, budgeting, spending, credit, and future planning	5 digital lessons (15 min each) - Up to 3.5 hr of offline learning	§ ¶
Sustainability Foundations™	5-8	●	Global systems, individual and collective responsibility, and basic natural laws	1 digital lesson (20 min) - Up to 1 hr of offline learning	§ ¶
Sustainability Foundations: Plants, Animals, and Our World™	5-8	●	Sustaining global resources, biodiversity, and positively impacting climate change	4 digital lessons (15 min each) - Up to 5 hr of offline learning	§ ¶
Sustainability Foundations: Ready to Recycle™	5-8	●	Single-stream recycling, raw materials, and making sustainable choices	3 digital lessons (15 min each) - Up to 2 hr of offline learning	§
FutureSmart™: Financial Literacy for Middle School	6-8	● ●	Financial values, budgeting, career exploration, and savings strategies	7 digital lessons (25 min each) - Up to 9 hr of offline learning	§
SmartEconomics: Economics for Middle School™	6-8	●	Law of supply and demand, market economy, GDP, taxes, and trade	3 digital lessons (20 min each) - Up to 3 hr of offline learning	§
SaveUp: Saving Money for the Future™	6-8	●	Budgeting, saving, setting financial goals, and how to open a savings account	4 digital lessons (10 min each) - Up to 3 hr of offline learning	§
Ignition: Digital Wellness & Safety®	6-9	● ●	Digital footprint, evaluating content, privacy and data, and cyber-bullying	6 digital lessons (20 min each) - Up to 3 hr of offline learning	§ ¶
Future Goals™: Hockey Careers Beyond the Ice	6-9	● ●	Various careers that illustrate a lesser-known side to professional hockey	4 digital lessons (20 min each) - Up to 3 hr of offline learning	§
Character Playbook®: Building Healthy Relationships	6-9	●	Managing emotions, active listening, peer pressure, conflict resolution, and integrity	5 digital lessons (20 min each) - Up to 7 hr of offline learning	§
Endeavor: STEM Career Exploration™	6-9	● ●	Engineering design process, software development, and STEM careers	7 digital lessons (25 min each) - Up to 7.5 hr of offline learning	
Venture: Entrepreneurial Expedition®	7-10	● ●	Opportunity recognition, business model foundations, and target markets	3 digital lessons (20 min each) - Up to 3 hr of offline learning	
Honor Code: Bullying Prevention™	8-10	●	Consequences of bullying, positive school climate, resilience, and managing conflict	5 digital lessons (10 min each) - Up to 8 hr of offline learning	¶
Understanding Mental Wellness®	8-12	●	Mental health, impact of stress, coping strategies, self-talk, and seeking help	6 digital lessons (15 min each) - Up to 3.5 hr of offline learning	§ ¶

Course Name	Grade Level	Topic Area	At-A-Glance	Curriculum Length	
Vaping: Know the truth™	8–12		Knowledge around the health effects associated with using vaping products	6 digital lessons (15 min each) - Up to 9 hr of offline learning	\$
Prescription Drug Safety: Know the truth™	8–12		Prescription labels, fentanyl, counterfeit pills, and responding to overdose	8 digital lessons (20 min each) - Up to 6 hr of offline learning	\$
Alcohol Education: Safe and Smart™	8–12		Risks of underage drinking, refusal skills, biphasic effect, and supporting friends	5 digital lessons (20 min each) - Up to 3 hr of offline learning	
Keys To Your Future: College & Career Readiness™	8–12		Career paths, soft skills for college and the workforce, and college admissions	6 digital lessons (20 min each) - Up to 5.5 hr of offline learning	
306: Black History™	8–12		Kingdoms of West Africa, slavery in the U.S., and the Civil Rights Movement	7 digital lessons (40 min each) - Up to 7 hr of offline learning	\$
306: Black History – Continuing the Story™	8–12		Juneteenth, notable Black entrepreneurs, and Black medical trailblazers	5 digital lessons (15 min each) - Up to 4 hr of offline learning	\$
Everfi: Financial Literacy® for High School	9–12	 	Budgeting, banking, consumer skills, credit and debt, and insurance	12 digital lessons (20 min each) - Up to 3 hr of offline learning	\$
Tax Simulation: Understanding Taxes™	9–12	 	Filing taxes, W2 form, deductions and credits, and tax preparation software	5 digital lessons (1 hr total) - Up to 1.5 hr of offline learning	\$
Marketplaces: Investing Basics™	9–12		Financial markets, stocks and bonds, asset allocation, and financial advisors	5 digital lessons (20 min each) - Up to 2 hr of offline learning	\$
Build: Credit Fundamentals™	9–12		Creditworthiness, acquiring credit, growing credit, and managing credit	5 digital lessons (15 min each) - Up to 5 hr of offline learning	\$
Minding Your Money: Skills for Life™	9–12	 	Financial values, setting goals, money and mental health, and financial stress	5 digital lessons (15 min each) - Up to 7.5 hr of offline learning	\$
Grow: Financial Planning for Life™	9–12		Financial goals, saving, budgeting, retirement plans, and balancing expenses	4 digital lessons (10 min each) - Up to 4.5 hr of offline learning	\$
Modern Money: Safe Digital Banking™	9–12		P2P applications, identifying scams, and protecting personal information	4 digital lessons (20 min each) - Up to 4 hr of offline learning	\$
Pathways: Financing Higher Education™	9–12	 	True cost of college, financial aid, loan repayment options, and ROI of higher ed	6 digital lessons (15 min each) - Up to 5.5 hr of offline learning	\$
Econ Foundations: Economics for High School™	9–12		Macroeconomics, microeconomics, GDP, unemployment, and economic policy	3 digital lessons (15 min each) - Up to 1.5 hr of offline learning	\$
Healthcare Literacy: Navigating Medical Care™	9–12	 	Health insurance, HSA and FSA, medical bills, and paying for healthcare	3 digital lessons (15 min each) - Up to 3 hr of offline learning	\$
Crypto Foundations™	9–12		Blockchain, digital assets, and the benefits and risks of using cryptocurrency	2 digital lessons (20 min each) - Up to 2.5 hr of offline learning	\$
Accounting Careers: Limitless Opportunities™	9–12	 	Career opportunities, daily life of an accountant, and accounting skills	3 digital lessons (20 min each) - Up to 2 hr of offline learning	
Data Science Foundations™	9–12	 	Data science field, cleaning data, data-driven decisions, and machine learning	4 digital lessons (30 min each) - Up to 4 hr of offline learning	\$
Data Science Exploration: Financial Wellness™	9–12	  	Risk detection, ethical considerations in data science, and career opportunities	2 digital lessons (15 min each) - Up to 1.5 hr of offline learning	
Building & Moving: STEM Careers™	9–12	 	The auto racing industry, engineering roles, and other career opportunities	2 digital lessons (15 min each) - Up to 1 hr of offline learning	\$



Ready to explore?

Register now at
everfi.com/newteacher



Everfi empowers educators with free, standards-aligned content that equips students with the personal finance and essential life skills they need for success—now and in the future.

(800) 945-2316