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Making the Most of the Instructional Materials Developed through Research



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A lot of instructional materials are being developed but their use is not being maximized. Thus, this policy brief suggests policies that can be implemented in order to make sure that teachers and students are getting the most out of these instructional materials.

A number of instructional materials have been developed, and most of them are in the fields of Science (Acuña, Gutierrez, & Areta, 2015; Evangelista et al., 2014; & Pastor et al., 2015) and Mathematics (Fortes et al., 2014). The tools received generally positive feedback from expert evaluators and learners, and showed great potential for classroom use. However, the development of instructional materials should not end with the design; these materials should be used in actual school settings, teachers should be trained in how to use them, and continuous validation and improvement must be conducted. Further, instructional materials in other areas besides Science and Math must also be developed. Policies that promote not only the construction of instructional materials, but that would also ensure its use in schools, are needed to maximize the benefits from the development of these materials.

Here is a summary of policy recommendations for these issues:



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1. TEIs must provide opportunities for the use and further development of these instructional materials. These studies serve as pilot tests that provide evidence on the validity and usefulness of these materials. However, the main goal of the conduct of these studies would only be fulfilled if the students would actually benefit from these instructional materials.
2. Regarding the observation that most materials development studies focus on STEM disciplines, TEIs should also bring attention about similar needs for these kinds of studies in other fields such as Social Sciences and Humanities, especially now with the implementation of K-12, where major changes were imposed in the academic system, and thus, there is a need for new materials that complement these changes to be developed.

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