




FAQs for the Oregon adoption

Accessibility

Question	In an emoji	Elaboration
Do the digital instructional materials have tools and formatting that allow access for all students?	✓	Text in Stile can be read aloud with word-by-word highlighting and is also compatible with screenreaders. Videos have closed captions. Color contrasts meet accessibility standards for students with vision differences. Stile has NIMAS files for use in the production of accessible formats for students with disabilities.
Can students/families access the materials outside of school?	✓	Stileapp.com and Stile X are both accessible outside of school.
Do the materials offer multiple ways of engagement, representation and expression?	✓	<p>Crafting multiple means of engagement, representation, and expression/action is core to creating a classroom grounded in the principles of Universal Design for Learning. Ways Stile supports teachers to embed UDL principles are:</p> <p>Engagement (i.e. how to engage all students):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning goals for every lesson• Driving questions boards, created by students, at the start of every unit• Encouraging students to bring cultural knowledge to school using Take Me Home lessons <p>Representation (i.e. how to represent information to reach all learners):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students engage with Stile’s curriculum through multiple means: digital, print, and lab kits. Using these varied resources, Stile students will encounter multiple, multi-modal opportunities to learn science, from hands-on activities to research projects, collaborative work to individual focus time.• Accessibility features include word-by-word highlighting and audio read-aloud, color contrasts that support vision difficulties, and closed captions on videos, screen-reader compatibility, braille version. <p>Expression (i.e. how to offer purposeful options for students to show what they know):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Question types in Stile lessons vary, so students can demonstrate knowledge via written responses, audio uploads, discussions, drawings, videos, drag and drops, etc.• Teachers can easily edit question types to better suit student needs, or simply select an “open response” question type, so students can pick their expression. <p>Grab a coffee with a Stilst to explore more of the elements of UDL in Stile and science education.</p>

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Adaptability

Question	In an emoji	Elaboration
Are there adaptive learning features? If so, do the adaptive learning tools supplement teacher direct instruction rather than serve as a replacement?		<p>We believe that teachers are the single most important part of a student's education. Many resources sideline the teacher, leaving students in isolation. We believe the teacher should be in the driver's seat. Classroom technology should empower teachers, helping to enhance their practice, not change it.</p> <p>Because of this, stileapp.com does not have algorithmic adaptive learning features. Stile is adaptive because teachers can customize anything to reach more of their students.</p> <p>At the same time, teachers are supported to customize wisely and implement great pedagogy with Teacher Tips, lesson plans, and week-by-week teaching plans that make instructional suggestions. This way, Stile provides the support that new teachers need and the flexibility that veteran teachers deserve.</p> <p>There is one exception: the Stile X phone app. The app supports student <u>independent</u> study, so it does have simple adaptive learning in the quiz. If students get a question wrong, they are fed variations of that type of question until they have learned the concept.</p>


Does the vendor actively address potential bias in the algorithm?



Stile is all about putting teachers in the driver's seat. This means the platform does not use algorithms to drive classroom learning. Stile also does not collect demographic data on students. These measures prevent bias from influencing the information that students are served.


The Stile X phone app has very simple adaptive learning tools to ensure the quiz feeds students questions on topics they still need to learn. The only data that informs which question is fed to which student is their history of correctly and incorrectly answered questions.

Usage tracking


Question	In an emoji	Elaboration
Do the digital instructional materials monitor system performance/analytics? This should include methods to measure material usage by staff, students, and families.		<p>Analytics are available for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number and names/emails of users with Stile accounts• Logins• Use of Teach Mode features such as class pause, live brainstorms and poll, class teleport, and model answer review• Use of customization and differentiation tools in Prepare Mode• Frequency of feedback provided to students

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Authentication

Question	In an emoji	Elaboration
What types of authentication does the vendor support?		The standard login process with Stile does not require multi-factor authentication. We can set up an integration with Google or another service that adheres to the school or district's login security measures.

Culturally responsive teaching

Question	In an emoji	Elaboration
Do the instructional resources represent and incorporate historically underserved populations and reflect a variety of family structures?		There are so many examples! Check out: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Women in STEM career profiles and unit guides. They include profiles of astronaut Stephanie Wilson, epidemiologist Meru Sheel, and Oregon-born marine biologist Joleah Lamb.• The Forces unit is centred on the incredible scientific contributions of First Nations Australians.• The Genetics unit showcases multigenerational families, the Socratic seminar in the Evolution unit depicts male caregivers, and the Active Earth unit's Family Evacuation Plan uses inclusive language to promote a variety of family structures.

Are the materials culturally responsive?








To create a culturally responsive classroom, Zaretta Hammond's framework explains that teachers first need to unpack their personal implicit biases and then get to know the foundational cultural values unique to their classroom. This is something that we at Stile want to support teachers with as much as possible, but we can't actually do it for them. What Stile can do is:




- Provide suggestions as to how to intertwine CRT with Stile (see the Stile Teacher Guide)
 - Empower teachers to make small changes to their lessons (such as including more collectivist learning approaches) to better engage their students
 - Craft our resources to support information processing as described by cognitive science, including metacognition and neuroplasticity
 - Include in-line Teacher Tips when there are excellent opportunities to make connections to background and cultural knowledge
 - Ensure our coaches and PL facilitators are experts in the CRT framework, so every training they provide is grounded in culturally responsive knowledge
 - Ensure our materials include a variety of cultures through the perspectives shared, people celebrated, and graphics incorporated
- In other words, creating and nurturing a culturally responsive science class is a team effort! Stile will be there with you every step of the way.

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Interoperability

Question	In an emoji	Elaboration
Does the resource work well with most software and hardware?		<p>Stile is a modern web app for teachers and students, intended for use both within the classroom and at home. It can be accessed via any modern web browser on any computer or tablet device.</p> <p>Stile leverages the latest web technologies to deliver its user experience. As such, some older browsers cannot be used to access the app. Cookies and Javascript must be enabled.</p> <p>Internet Explorer is no longer supported. Consider switching to Microsoft Edge on Windows 10 devices.</p> <p>iOS 10 and under are no longer supported. Consider updating your iPad to the latest compatible operating system or upgrading your device.</p>
Is there single sign on (SSO)?		<p>Stile has single sign-on with Google, Microsoft, and Clever. If your SSO operates with a different system, we'd be delighted to meet with your technical team to support SSO.</p>
Does the digital platform integrate with other sites?		<p>Great integrations can seriously streamline educator workload. Bad integrations can be a waste of time and money. There are also different levels of integration - with SSO at the base, through to gradebook exports, through to complete interoperability within a different site.</p> <p>We believe that the best solution will be unique to your district, the technology you use and the data you track. We'd be delighted to sit down with your leadership and technical team to find out how we can create a bespoke solution for you.</p> <p>Presently, Stile integrates completely with Canvas and offers SSO for Google, Microsoft, and Clever. It is simple to share a link to a Stile lesson with students, which takes them directly to the correct place.</p>
Do students get rostered?		<p>Teachers roster students into Stile <u>once</u> per year in a simple 5-10 minute process. Historically, schools find this more effective and flexible than rostering, as it's easy to move students between classes when changes arise. If you don't believe this will be the case for your district, talk with us and we can support your schools' needs.</p>
What licensing is required for integration with our learning management system?		<p>No additional licensing is required for integrations.</p>

Linguistically responsive


Question	In an emoji	Elaboration
Do the materials offer a wide variety of available language choices?		By default, we offer Stile in English and Spanish. However, Stile can be used with the Google Translate integration to translate all of our editable text into students' preferred language.
Are the materials translated by humans?		The Spanish version of Stile, available from August 2024, is an authentic translation undertaken by human translators with authentic accents and intonations.
How are digital instructional resources designed to support classrooms where students have a variety of lexile levels and/or backgrounds?		Stile's platform empowers teachers to scaffold students to the appropriate level of lexile challenge. Some examples are below! <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <u>For the new language learner</u>: Teachers can add in a translation of selected text and arrange it side-by-side with English text.2. <u>For building blocks without words</u>: Stile creates multimodal lessons that engage auditory, visual, and kinesthetic learning. This includes images, graphics, videos, and simulations, so students have a non-verbal reference point to launch from.3. <u>For the listener</u>: Many language learners have stronger comprehension when listening. All Stile text has audio narration and word-by-word highlighting.4. <u>For the talker</u>: Many language learners are better able to communicate verbally than through writing. In Stile, students can swap a written response question for an audio upload, if teachers5. <u>For the student who needs a starting place</u>: Stile questions include model answers. Teachers can create sentence starters from these exemplars so students get past go.6. <u>For the student who needs Tier 3 vocabulary practice</u>: Students can reap the benefits of focused vocabulary instruction in Stile X. The workbook supports students to create their own glossary. The Stile X app is smart - it learns which words students don't know and feeds them just-hard-enough questions.7. <u>For the student who needs a definition</u>: Stile provides, and teachers are empowered to add, translations and matching images of key vocabulary using Stile's pop-up glossary.8. <u>For the student who needs exemplars</u>: Stile lessons include model answers. These writing exemplars provide students with examples of proficient written responses in addition to providing the teacher with a model for building sentence frames.9. <u>For the advanced language learner</u>: Throughout each lesson in Stile, students are asked to produce writing that requires them to apply different language functions such as "Describe", "Compare", and "Evaluate". These writing tasks allow students to practice writing for various purposes.

Pedagogy




Question	In an emoji	Elaboration
Is Stile aligned with the Oregon Science Standards?		<p>Yes! With a perfect score on the state IMET evaluation in alignment, progression, and phenomena-based learning Stile makes it a breeze to teach the Oregon Science Standards. It gives you the confidence that you're covering the standards to the appropriate level, while also providing the analytics you need to know which of your students are meeting the standards, and which need additional support.</p> <p>But don't take it from us! The Oregon adoption evaluating committee said "The materials consistently integrate the DCIs, SEPs, and CCCs for the grade band as well as explicitly aligning with the nature of science."</p>
Is Stile's curriculum 3D and phenomena-based?		<p>Yes! The 3D elements are the DCIs, SEPs, and CCCs that make up a standard. They are consistently integrated throughout Stile units. You can find out which unit covers which standard (and the three elements within) in the Oregon Teacher Guide. Within a unit, you'll find banners and Teacher Tips calling out where particular elements are developed, used, and assessed.</p> <p>Each unit in Stile has a focal scientific phenomenon or engineering problem such as how a video call works (the Waves unit), if we need to save the bees (The Importance of Biodiversity), if lab-grown meat is the way of the future (Cells), and antibiotic resistance (Evolution).</p> <p>Students are regularly introduced to new, related micro-phenomena throughout the unit to bring in new information or add context.</p>
Are there any instructional frameworks that underpin Stile?		<p>Stile units teach the standards through the 5E instructional model. Each unit begins with a Driving Questions Board to engage students and ensure their curiosity drives the learning. Students explore, explain, and elaborate on the DCIs <u>through</u> the SEPs and CCCs. For example, students may analyze and interpret data on bee populations and vegetable production to identify patterns that explain the importance of biodiversity. Finally, Stile students receive feedback multiple times throughout a unit while teachers evaluate their level of mastery.</p> <p>Other evidence-based instructional approaches can come into play in Stile, as this keeps things fresh and results in reaching more of our students. For instance, you'll notice project-based learning in the Human Impacts on Ecosystems unit where students create a campaign to save coral reefs. In The Nervous System unit, students use model-based inquiry to explain how the mind-gut connection might work. During engineering challenges, inquiry-based learning takes center stage as students work collaboratively to solve problems, such as how to grow crops in a world of rising sea levels.</p>

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Pedagogy ctd.

Question	In an emoji	Elaboration
Does Stile have labs? What about kits? Are they any good?		<p>Yes, Stile has labs and they are BRILLIANT! There are over 115 open-ended investigations, lab activities, and engineering challenges at the fingertips of teachers. Each unit comes with a Lab Guide, which includes a list of the materials required and where you could purchase them, the expected outcome, a video of how to do lab, and tips that we learned when we tested the lab. Yes - we have tested every single lab so teachers don't have to. We guarantee they'll work, and if they don't, write in and we'll give you \$500 towards lab equipment.</p> <p>Stile also has incredible lab kits. We designed them to minimize wastage, maximize sustainability, and make labs an absolute breeze so that more teachers do them! There are two types of kits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grade-level kits: These include classic science lab materials (think beakers, stopwatches, thermometers) required for all Stile labs in a grade level.• Unit kits: These include unit-specific materials (like fibre-optic cable in the Waves unit or alligator clips in Energy) and will need topping up each year. <p>You can opt-in or -out of either, depending on the unique needs of your science classrooms.</p>

Leadership support

Question	In an emoji	Elaboration
Can leaders/TOSAs/admin get an overview of usage?		Your Stile representative can work with your implementation subcommittee to assign Stile Admins at your school or district. Stile Admins can add/remove staff, view usage, and manage the shared Stile library, where your school or district's content and resources can be found on our platform
Is there reporting?		Your Stile representative will provide regular reports to relevant stakeholders about Stile usage across teachers and students. This will include information about differentiation, feedback, and frequency of usage.
Do leadership get training?		While schools and districts can use Stile effectively without leadership training, we recommend making use of Stile's leadership support. We'll demonstrate (in your classrooms!) what to expect in an outstanding Stile classroom, and model how to use our observation rubrics to frame feedback and accelerate growth.



Student data privacy

Question	In an emoji	Elaboration
Are strict student data privacy guidelines in place?	✔	<p>We've built Stile from the ground up with the privacy and security requirements of schools and students in mind. Stile's development processes ensure that security is a core consideration whenever we add new features or modify existing ones. We use automated systems to randomly audit our security policies, ensuring they are correctly enforced. Internal and third party reviews of our security practices are routinely performed to verify our security practices and identify potential vulnerabilities.</p> <p>We even have an open bug bounty hunt! Stile permits independent security researchers (ie. well-intentioned hackers) anywhere in the world to attempt to break into our systems, and offers them legal protection so long as they disclose any vulnerabilities back to us.</p>
Does Stile have an NDPA signed with a district in Oregon?	✔	Yes!

Teacher agency

Question	In an emoji	Elaboration
Does the platform allow the teacher to easily adjust and modify lessons?	🔥	Yes, this is one of Stile's strengths. Stile's Prepare Mode puts the teacher in the drivers seat. All of Stile's content is fully customizable to ensure teachers have the tools they need to make lessons accessible to their unique students.
Can the teacher assign different materials to different students and create multiple assessments?	✔	Yes, teachers are able to release different assignments/assessments to students as needed. Teachers can create multiple versions of assessments that set up each student to demonstrate their learning in the most supportive way.








Onboarding and implementation


Question	In an emoji	Elaboration
Does Stile provide an onboarding guide?	✔	<p>All Stile teachers go through 2 x 1 hour trainings: Basics and Advanced. Ideally, we run these in-person during the first 3 months of implementation.</p> <p>In addition, teachers will have documentation to support onboarding: The Stile Guide outlines how to use Stile effectively and The Teacher Guide offers guidance on embedding pedagogical best practices in the classroom.</p>
How are licenses assigned? Can licenses be reclaimed?	✔	<p>Licenses are allocated on the student-level. Teacher accounts are unlimited. If the student population shifts dramatically during implementation, the school or district will work with their Stile representative to transfer or add more licences.</p>
What ongoing professional development and technical support does the vendor provide during implementation years?	✔	<p>Stile offers a comprehensive Professional Learning (PL) program to support teachers during their teaching journey with Stile that focuses not only building teachers' capacity to use Stile effectively, but that also focuses on key evidence-based teaching strategies that improve outcomes for students. Stile will work with relevant stakeholders to customize this plan for your strategic goals and adoption length.</p> <p>Every school/district will have a dedicated Stile representative who will support leaders, teachers, and IT professionals through the implementation process.</p>
What yearly maintenance tasks are required to ensure appropriate rostering, authentication, licensing, and system integration?	✔	<p>The maintenance tasks may vary depending on your Stile purchases and integrations. They could include getting lab kit refills, updating enrollments, or planning PL for the next year.</p> <p>In addition, Stile recommends an annual meeting with district IT stakeholders and your Stile representative to ensure all integrations and rosters are set up appropriately.</p>
If there are errors or updates, does the resource get updated?	✔	<p>Yes. Stile releases updates every Friday, accessible to all Stile schools. These can be found in the "What's new" section of the sidebar, and range from delights to bug fixes to new lesson releases.</p> <p>It's inexcusable to have factual errors in a science curriculum. If you find an error, let us know and we'll thank you with \$500 towards lab equipment.</p>

Stile

Ordering and invoicing

Question	In an emoji	Elaboration
OK. My team and I love Stile. How do I order it?		<p>Ask for a quote with a few different options that you're considering. Remember that Stile includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital: The Stile teaching and learning platform• Print/phone: Stile X workbooks plus phone app• Lab kits: Grade level kits, unit kits, and refills• Professional learning, training, and coaching• Teacher support documentation <p>Your district can sign on for anywhere from 1 to 7 years. Once you've come to a decision, district leadership signs a contract agreeing to Stile's operating terms and conditions.</p>
How does the district pay?		<p>Most districts we work with raise a purchase order against the agreed quote. Stile will use this to fulfil the order and issue an invoice to the district's finance team.</p>
Can I get a discount?		<p>Sadly, no. Stile is contractually obliged to price Stile for the Oregon Science Standards according to the bidsheet available on the ODE's website.</p>
What are your invoicing terms?		<p>Ask to see a copy to review! It's pretty standard.</p>
How many lab kits do I need to order?		<p>We recommend one grade-level kit per teacher plus one unit kit per class. Talk with your favorite Stile person to figure out if that's the best path forward for you.</p>

About Stile

Question	In an emoji	Elaboration
Where is Stile from and what is it doing in Oregon?		<p>Stile has been battle-tested for 10 years in Australian classrooms where it is the #1 middle school science resource. The founders include Alan Finkel (Australia's former Chief Scientist), Danny (a teacher), and Byron (a tech-xpert). Now, Stile is made up of over 70 incredible artists, engineers, scientists, and teachers united by a mission to create a world-class science education for every student.</p> <p>Oregon is Stile's home base in the USA, and our tight-knit, expert team of 6 either live in Portland or spend weeks to months at a time in Oregon. While Stile is used in lots of other states, our focus is on our home state, and it will be our top priority for the duration of our partnerships with Oregon districts.</p>