

2nd Edition SOAR[®]: Learning & Soft Skills for College & Career Readiness

● Curriculum Evaluation Chart ●

The following chart is designed to help you compare SOAR[®] to other programs. While we acknowledge that this chart has an inherent bias towards our program, we hope it will help you gain a more detailed insight into the content of the program and careful intentions of the author. This insight will ultimately help you make your own judgment of the program.

Additional rows are included on the last page for you to add your own comments and observations.

Questions to Consider	SOAR [®] Learning & Soft Skills	Program 2
What age level is the program designed/intended for... elementary, middle school, high school, or college?	SOAR [®] was designed for middle and high school. We do, however, have several schools using the program in upper elementary (5 th & 6 th grade) as well as at the college level.	
How complex are most strategies? Are they cumbersome or simplified? How likely are students to do these on their own initiative? Will students save time and increase effectiveness?	SOAR [®] was built around the concept of being student-friendly. Our three student-friendly principles are: strategies must save time, they must be effective, and they must apply across all content areas.	
Are the strategies <i>student-directed</i> or <i>teacher-directed</i>? Do you want strategies that will increase teachers' effectiveness or strategies that will empower students to take initiative of their own learning?	SOAR [®] is designed to be student-directed. Of course, teachers will introduce strategies and encourage regular usage, but the goal is for students to use them on their own. For example, concept maps are a common 'study skill,' but students often do not know <i>when</i> to use a concept map. Such strategies are not included in SOAR [®] .	
Does the program cover skills that you and your staff/colleagues have determined to be critical skills for your students? (Also consider common complaints from parents.)	SOAR [®] Study Skills covers skills and strategies to help students learn how to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify and capitalize on their strengths with the Multiple Intelligences ▪ Set and maintain goals ▪ Prioritize and manage their time 	

<p>(Repeated from page 1)</p> <p>Does the program cover skills that you and your staff/colleagues have determined to be critical skills for your students? (Also consider common complaints from parents.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do homework efficiently ▪ Use a planner effectively ▪ Organize their papers ▪ Organize their locker, book bag, and room at home ▪ Speak & listen effectively ▪ Work with teachers & peers ▪ Resolve conflicts ▪ Read text-books quickly and efficiently ▪ Write research papers painlessly ▪ Take notes and study them ▪ Take math notes and study them ▪ Prepare for tests ▪ Take tests ▪ Track grades (to help students learn that they <i>earn</i> grades and that teachers do not just 'distribute' grades) ▪ Monitor goals for long-term success 	
<p>Will most strategies apply across content areas or are most strategies best suited for specific content areas? A good mix is important, but if students are new to the concept of soft skills/study skills, it is best to begin instruction with strategies that apply across most content areas, ensuring students will know <i>when</i> to use them.</p>	<p>As described earlier, a core principle of SOAR® is to teach strategic learning strategies that apply <i>across content areas</i>. The vast majority of SOAR® strategies will apply across content areas.</p>	
<p>How much preparation is required for teachers to implement?</p>	<p>With the SOAR® Multi-Media Teacher's Guide, teachers have dozens of visuals, demonstrations, and interactive activities at their finger-tips. They will only need to read the support material (which is concise and to-the-point) and gather supplies.</p>	
<p>What is the cost of the program?</p>	<p>To answer this question, please reference the SOAR® Study Skills product information page</p>	

	at https://studyskills.com/educators/soar-educator-options/ to determine the package that best applies to you.	
What is the cost of the school/organizational supplies required to implement the program?	SOAR® maintains the focus on using minimal supplies to keep the learning process as simple as possible for students. The only 'special' supplies that are recommended are: a 1.5-inch binder, 5-6 poly folders, a specified container to house papers at home (can be as simple a shoe box), and a digital timer (optional).	
Is the program a system of strategies that integrate with one another or is it a "list" of tips?	SOAR® introduces one concept or set of strategies at a time, but each new strategy builds upon the previous one. The inter-related nature of the program helps students make connections across strategies, which is <i>essential</i> for long-term retention and application.	
Is there flexibility with the program? Does the program have to follow a specific order or can you pull the pieces you need, as you need them?	While we believe that you will see the best results by implementing SOAR® as a system (as described above) you still have the option to hone in on specific strategies. Just reference the Table of Contents to find the skill you wish to teach. Each section/strategy of SOAR® will stand alone.	
Are there tips and considerations provided for students who live in two homes and students who have ADHD?	Yes, SOAR® has tips and accommodations listed for students who live in two homes and ADHD. Look for the "two homes" icon and the "key" icon.	
Are there support materials for parents?	We provide dozens of free resources for parents at our website, http://studyskills.com/ , including our free guide, "Six Steps to Conquer the Chaos."	

	There is also an "Introduction for Parents" included in the student text.	
Does the program support your <i>mandated</i> curriculum?	SOAR® covers 100% of the Common Core Anchor Standards for College & Career Readiness.	
Is the program research-based?	SOAR® is built on common sense and a LOT of research. See our research basis: http://studyskills.com/educators/research-basis/ See “The Two Research-Based Ways to Raise Test Scores” on page 15 of the student book.	
Is the program proven to improve student outcomes?	SOAR® is proven to raise GPAs by an average of <i>ONE</i> full point. Teachers give it a 98.8% success rate!	
Does the program come with a guarantee?	SOAR® comes with a 100% money-back guarantee!	
Is the curriculum available in multiple formats (workbook, software app, Multi-Media Teacher’s Guide) to best serve my students?	Yes! All of the SOAR® content is available in print and/or digital form for both the student and teacher.	

Have you seen the digital preview of our program?

Visit <http://studyskills.com/curriculum-preview/> to sign up for a digital preview of our SOAR® Learning & Soft Skills student text, student app, and our Multi-Media Teacher's Guide.