

Using Custom Courses in SuccessMaker

Full Courses vs. Custom Courses

Determining when to supplement with custom courses within *SuccessMaker* depends on your goals and objectives.

Full default Reading and Math courses include Initial Placement that automatically determines your students' functional level within the course.* This is a level where learners are sufficiently challenged but not to the point of frustration, known as the Zone of Proximal Development. Once a student's functional level is determined, the full course provides a personalized learning pathway which is enabled by *SuccessMaker's* proprietary, research-based learning algorithms called Adaptive Motion. Adaptive Motion is both continuous and automatic.

Note: A custom course by setting is simply a copy of the default Full Course and will function the same as the default Full Course even if IP is turned off.

*Some districts may use Momentum Math to replace Math IP.

Custom courses by skill or standard allow you to choose grade-level skills or standards for your students. This ensures that all students in a given grade are exposed to grade-level content, regardless of their functional level. There is no diagnostic placement at the start, and every student is presented with the same content with scaffolded support as needed. This can be useful if your goal is to have all of your students working on grade-level content.

It's important to note that any Custom Course you create will be shared and visible across your entire school, so please exercise caution when creating.

Full Courses vs. Custom Courses

	Full Course/Custom Course by Setting	Custom Course by Skill or Standard
Initial Placement	✓	X
Determines Functional Level	✓	X
Automatic Personalized learning	✓	X
Exposure to On Grade-Level Skills/Standards	depends on student's functional level	✓
View Gains Made throughout Course	✓	X
View Acceptable Performance throughout Course	✓	X
Access to All Reports	✓	X* *Reports for all types of custom courses are only available for the <i>Cumulative Performance Report, Session History Report, and System Enrollment and Usage Report</i>

Purpose of Custom Courses

Custom courses in *SuccessMaker* allow teachers to select specific content in order to focus student learning on a particular skill or objective. Custom courses *complement* the Reading and Math full courses within *SuccessMaker* for added differentiation. Ideally, custom courses should be used for the following reasons:

Remediation/Intervention:

- Create custom courses for strategic and intensive intervention based on SuccessMaker data.
- Use the Areas for Growth, Cumulative Performance, Mastery, and Student Performance reports to determine the content of your individualized custom courses.
- You may also choose to use diagnostic data and teacher observations to determine the content for your courses.

Additional Practice on Skills and Standards:

- Create custom courses for additional focus and practice on a specific skill or set of standards (including state-specific standards, or NWEA MAP® Growth™ RIT band).
- Custom courses can be used for teacher-directed whole-class instruction, small-group instruction, and one-to-one tutoring, as well as be assigned to individual students, groups of students, or an entire class.
- Additionally, custom courses can be used to support grade-specific standards.

Prerequisite Skill Instruction:

Create custom courses to preview skills and provide prerequisite skill instruction for an upcoming objective.

High-Stakes Assessment Preparation:

Create custom courses based on specific standards covered on high-stakes assessments.

Alignment with Savvas Core Programs:

Create custom courses to support alignment with Savvas core programs, including *enVision Math*, *Experience Math*, *myView Literacy*, and *myPerspectives*. Please check with your consultant for available training and resources to guide your utilization of custom courses aligned to Savvas core products.

Best Practices for using Custom Courses

Do use custom courses to support alignment with Savvas core programs (<i>enVision Math</i> , <i>myPerspectives</i> , etc.).	Don't create a custom course for every skill or standard.
Do monitor student progress within the custom courses.	Don't assign students to more than two custom courses at a time, per subject.
Do use custom courses for whole-class, small group, or one-to-one instruction.	Don't create custom courses for a specific skill in Math that exceeds five minutes in length.
Do develop naming protocols within your school for custom courses. Be sure the naming convention includes identifying features, such as the relevant skill, standard(s), and level.	Don't randomly choose names for your custom courses.
Do use custom courses to <i>supplement</i> full course usage.	
Do consider implementation goals and objectives before creating custom courses.	