THE EVALUATION IN BRIEF

Here is a composite page from Connected Mathematics. It is one of more than a hundred pages that a team of analysts typically examines in order to rate a material.

Analysts begin with a clear understanding of the benchmark:

Symbolic equations can be used to summarize how the quantity of something changes over time or in response to other changes.
(Chapter 11C, grades 6-8, benchmark 4, p.274)

They follow a uniform procedure to complete their analysis.

Step 1. The analysts examine each textbook activity—a lesson or part of a lesson—that matches the content of the benchmark.

Step 2. Analysts determine the extent to which an activity addresses the benchmark concept or skill.
Please say if indicators are met (1) or not met (0) then assign a score for Criterion V.1. Encouraging Students to Explain Their Reasoning. Does the material routinely include suggestions for having each student express, clarify, justify, and represent his/her ideas and how to get feedback from peers and the teacher?

| Indicator 1 | 1 |
| Indicator 2 | 1 |
| Indicator 3 | 1 |
| Indicator 4 | 1 |

Please give this criterion one of the following ratings:
3 = High
2 = Medium
1 = Low
0 = None

Indicators of meeting Criterion V.1:
1. The material encourages students to express their ideas about the benchmark.
2. The material encourages students not only to express but also to clarify, justify, interpret, or represent benchmark ideas.
3. The material provides (or includes suggestions to help the teacher to provide) explicit feedback to students about their ideas.
4. The material includes suggestions to the students or teacher on how to use student responses to diagnose errors or difficulties, address errors or difficulties, or further develop students’ ideas about the benchmark.

Scoring scheme for this sighting:
High: The material meets all 4 indicators.
Medium: The material meets indicator 1, along with 2 of the other 3 indicators.
Low: The material meets at least 1 of the indicators.
None: The material does not meet any of the indicators.

Once all sightings have been scored, a composite report is assembled.