



MOWR Vetted Core (Tier I) Programs Guidance **For New Submissions**

This document is to be followed by vendors who would like to submit a reading program for the first time to be vetted and added to the MOWR list.

Reading programs previously on the MOWR vetted list that may be undergoing periodic reexamination or reading programs that have previously been rejected only need to send updated research studies via email to vendorreview@azed.gov to begin the new vetting process.

Definitions

Science of Reading: The science of reading is a vast, interdisciplinary body of scientifically based research about reading and issues related to reading and writing. This research has been conducted over the last five decades across the world, and it is derived from thousands of studies conducted in multiple languages. The science of reading has culminated in a preponderance of evidence to inform how proficient reading and writing develop; why some have difficulty; and how we can most effectively assess and teach and, therefore, improve student outcomes through prevention of and intervention for reading difficulties. (*Science of Reading: Defining Guide*, The Reading League, 2022)

Core Reading Program: Based on the Science of Reading a core (Tier 1) reading program is the primary tool used to meet the academic reading needs of all students. Core reading programs systematically and explicitly instruct students in a sequence of increasing complexity in the essential components of early literacy: Phonological awareness, including phonemic awareness, Phonics encoding and decoding, Vocabulary development, Reading fluency as demonstrated by automatic reading of text, Reading comprehension of written text, Written and oral expression, Spelling, and Handwriting. Students master and braid these core skills together to become skilled readers.

Background

A.R.S. §15-704.D requires each school district or charter school that provides instruction for pupils in kindergarten programs and grades one through three shall conduct a curriculum evaluation and adopt an evidence-based reading curriculum that includes the essential components of reading instruction. All school districts and charter schools that offer instruction in kindergarten programs and grades one through three shall provide ongoing teacher training based on evidence-based reading research.

A.R.S. §15-704. J.1.a-f defines “essential components of reading instruction” as explicit and systematic instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and written & oral expression.

The Arizona Department of Education will review reading curricula to compile a list of effective programs grounded on ESSA Tiers of Evidence. All programs that petition to be on the approved list shall submit all required documentation, including statistically significant research in grades K-3 to demonstrate ESSA Tier 1, ESSA Tier 2, or ESSA Tier 3 evidence.

The Arizona Department of Education requires the following in addition to ESSA Tiers of Evidence for all efficacy studies:

- The study must be conducted within the last fifteen years.
- Studies must comprise of at least 350 participants including attrition to be considered for ESSA Tier 1 and Tier 2 and must include treatment and control groups.
- Studies must comprise of at least 100 participants including attrition to be considered for ESSA Tier 3 and must include statistical controls for selection bias.
- The study must include information regarding student subgroups.
- Direct instruction provided by a teacher must be a mainstay of the core curriculum. If the curriculum is fully digital, the teacher must play a significant role in providing small group or 1:1 instruction that is a required (not optional) component.

As noted above, the bulleted items are part of a pre-screen checklist and are subject to change. To be considered for a full comprehensive review, the submitted efficacy study must meet all bulleted items to advance to the next phase of the review process which includes criteria from the rubric found in this document several pages below.

Purpose

The purpose of this review is to assist Arizona Department of Education in gathering information on research that demonstrates statistically significant findings that align with the requirements set forth by A.R.S. §15-704.D and A.R.S. §15-704. J.1.a-f. to meet the criteria for MOWR program approval. ADE will use this information to build a list of vetted MOWR literacy programs that meet ESSA Tiers of Evidence 1, 2, or 3.

A.R.S. §15-704.D Establishes the adoption of evidence-based reading curriculum that explicitly and systematically teaches phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and written & oral expression for students in kindergarten through third grade. The Arizona Department of Education will review research that supports these components of literacy.

Based on the requirements of statute, the ADE requests that interested vendors provide information on reading curriculum that demonstrates statistically significant research in grades K-3 to meet ESSA Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 evidence.

Instructions for Responding

All research shall be submitted by e-mail to vendorreview@azed.gov. Please frame submission requirements as outlined in the form linked <https://forms.office.com/r/804kaNPU4k>.

See below for worksheet information you will need to complete the form.

VENDOR FORM WILL ASK FOR:

1. Is the research you are submitting 15 years or older?
2. Does the research you are submitting have at least 350 participants (to be considered Tier 1 or Tier 2 ESSA Evidence) and no less than 100 participants (to be considered for Tier 3 ESSA Evidence)?
3. Is diversity with student population and subgroups represented in your research results?
4. Is it fully understood that a submission of a fully digital, asynchronous curriculum will only be reviewed and considered for the Supplemental Materials List?
5. Official name of publishing company.
6. Core program's marketed name.
7. Vendor Contact AZ Sales Representative (Please include full name and job title).
8. Vendor Contact AZ Sales Representative email address.
9. Vendor Contact AZ Sales Representative phone number.
10. Weblink or PDF to FULL REPORT of this core program's efficacy study. (Must include full report, not executive summary. Do not include EdReports or case studies)
11. Direct link to vendor's web address to this program's primary information.
12. Previously published/marketed program name or publisher.
13. Year of latest/current edition publication date.
14. Specific grade levels for which this program is intended to serve. (Ex. K-2, 3-5)
15. Materials are provided for daily lessons of 90 minutes or more and include whole group, small group, and individualized instructional opportunities during a core reading block.

16. Primary instruction delivery format.
17. Included instructional elements of the Science of Reading.
18. A clearinghouse has reviewed this product. If yes, please share the direct link for that website. (full web address) (Do not include EdReports ratings or case studies). If this product has not been reviewed by a clearinghouse such as WWC or Evidence for ESSA, enter n/a.
19. Aligned to the 2016 Arizona ELA Standards. ARS 15-704.
20. The essential components of reading included in this core reading program to determine fidelity to this program. (Mark all that apply) ARS 15-704
 - 20.1. Phonological awareness, including phonemic awareness
 - 20.2. Phonics encoding and decoding
 - 20.3. Vocabulary development
 - 20.4. Reading fluency as demonstrated by automatic reading of text
 - 20.5. Reading comprehension of written text
 - 20.6. Written and oral expression
 - 20.7. Spelling
 - 20.8. Handwriting
21. Is the three cueing system taught as strategies for decoding (i.e., directing students to use picture cues, context cues, or attend to the first letter of a word as a cue)?
22. Any other information that would be helpful to the ADE Move On When Reading Team.

Evaluation Process

Each year, the process will be open to additional submissions.

Vendors who are vetted agree if changes are made to their program, they will resubmit new research to Arizona Department of Education for rereview to ensure all reading curricula continue to meet the legislative requirements as soon as changes are made.

The vetted MOWR reading program list will be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect updated research or any future legislative changes.

Evaluation Criteria

Responses meeting the requirements will be evaluated by the Arizona Department of Education MOWR committee. The Committee will review and score responses based on the scoring rubric. The scoring rubric provides vendors with the specific criteria used to evaluate a submission.

Request for further clarification from the vendor to assist the Committee in gaining additional understanding of a response may occur at any time.

MOWR Vetted Reading Program Rubric

Each reading program will be scored using a rubric. A response must meet **all** the criteria in each scored area to be included on the K-3 MOWR vetted reading program list.

Scoring Values:

- **All** criteria is present
- Criteria is not met

Research Study Submission

Each reading program must submit a research study, preferably peer reviewed, that finds the program to show statistically significant data related to K-3 literacy. The research must include the following to meet ADE's standards:

- Independent Researchers
- Established and consistent measure(s) used
- Sample Size (to include student demographics and attrition rates)
- Research Design
- Outcome
- Effect Size
- ESSA Evidence Tier

Notification

Following the review of the submission, vendors will be notified via email from the ADE MOWR Committee as to whether they will be included on the K-3 Core Reading Program list. This process may take 8-10 weeks at minimum. There is no appeal process.

K-3 MOWR Core Reading Program List Rubric

Directions: Complete the Vendor Form. Within the form, items 10 and 11 will allow you to provide the full research study as a link.

For your reference, see below for Scoring Rubric that will be used to determine addition of Reading Program to ADE's Vetted MOWR Reading Program List.

Study:		
Date of Study:		
Core Program's Marketed Name:		
	Rating or Measure Select: Y or N	Rationale See Examples Below
*Peer Review (Y/N)	Y	Published in a peer reviewed journal
Independent Researchers (Y/N)	Y	University-affiliated research center
Established Measure (Y/N)	Y	DIBELS
Sample Size	Y	427, but 60 dropped out - not sure from which group
Research Design	Y	RCT
Outcome	Y	ELs did not make statistically significant gains
Effect Size	N	None reported
ESSA Evidence Tier	Y	Would meet one of the top 3

*Does not affect overall score