Core Program Summary

Benchmark Education Company, Benchmark Adelante, 2023

COLORADO
Department of Education

Information

The Colorado Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act (READ Act), passed by the Colorado legislature in 2012, focuses on early literacy development for all students kindergarten through third grade and especially for students at risk of not reaching grade-level proficiency in reading by the end of third grade. Included in the READ Act is the requirement that the department shall create an advisory list of evidence-based or scientifically based instructional programming in reading, pursuant to C.R.S. 22-7-1209.

The main purpose of the READ Act Advisory List of Instructional Programming is to provide districts and schools with a choice of instructional programming that adequately enhances teacher quality and is a major vehicle that schools/districts can utilize to upgrade their capacity as it relates to the implementation of the evidence-based literacy practices.

CDE Core Program Rating Summary

Kindergarten: Meets Expectations in all reading components
First Grade: Meets Expectations in all reading components
Second Grade: Meets Expectations in all reading components
Third Grade: Meets Expectations in all reading components
Usability: Meets Expectations

Vendor Information and Program Summary

Vendor: Benchmark Education Company

Publication year (or edition): 2023

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This program was approved for use in:

- ✓ **Kindergarten**
- ✓ **First Grade**
- ✓ **Second Grade**
- ✓ **Third Grade**

Core (Universal) Programming: A reading program that is used to help guide both initial and differentiated instruction in the regular classroom. It supports instruction in the broad range of reading skills (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension) required to become a skilled reader. It contains teacher's manuals with explicit lesson plans and provides reading and practice materials for students (FCRR, n.d.).

Please access the scored rubric online to review the specific criteria and feedback for each approved core reading program.

Rubrics are available for all instructional program reviewed from the CDE upon request. Please contact READAct@cde.state.co.us.

For additional information, see the Biliteracy Snapshot on the Spanish Instructional Programs Advisory list.

Vendor provided summary:

Benchmark Adelante ©2023 is a content-rich, K-5 core literacy curriculum that is rooted in and responsive to evidence-based teaching practices aligned to the science of reading research. *Benchmark Adelante ©2023* provides a cohesive instructional framework that reflects the two sets of competencies from the science of reading research addressing all components of the reading process: foundational reading-skill competencies (phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics and word study, fluency, sight words, and high-frequency words) and knowledge-based competencies (vocabulary, language, comprehension, and background knowledge).

EVIDENCE-BASED TEACHING PRACTICES

Benchmark Adelante ©2023 is built around a K-5 vertical alignment of 10 knowledge-building units per grade level. According to Dr. Tanya Kaefer (2020), background knowledge is essential for reading comprehension (p. S173). Knowledge is best built when it can be processed in-depth (Beck & McKeown, 2007; Coyne, McCoach, Loftus, Zipoli, & Kapp, 2009), when it is repeated over time (Pinkham, Neuman, & Lillard, 2011), and when it can be connected to information that students already know (Shing & Brod, 2016). *Benchmark Adelante ©2023* incorporates this approach in each three-week unit which includes in-depth and explicit literacy instruction that includes vocabulary, comprehension, language, and background knowledge. The units integrate science, social studies, and literary content, and include a cohesive balance of informational and literary complex texts for each grade level. Students have multiple opportunities to read, discuss, and analyze texts and vocabulary, including responding both orally and in writing to text-specific questions.

INTEGRATED ELA SKILLS

Benchmark Adelante ©2023 seamlessly integrates reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills aligned to SLA Standards. The skills and strategies addressed in each unit work together to serve the primary goal of explicitly building students' knowledge across the 10 vertically aligned knowledge strands. The program's intentional scope and sequence includes a spiraling of skills and strategies, with built-in systematic and cumulative review, throughout the program.

Benchmark Adelante ©2023 offers a biliteracy scope and sequence that provides literacy development through the use of metalinguistic connections. In Two-Way Immersion, Dual Language and/or Bilingual programs with a goal of biliteracy, learning two languages simultaneously requires specific planning and instruction of what to teach in English and in Spanish. The *Biliteracy Instructional Guide* in *Benchmark Adelante ©2023* helps teachers implement successful Two-way Immersion, Dual Language and/or Bilingual programs. Additionally, the Biliteracy Planners in *Benchmark Advance 2022* and *Benchmark Adelante ©2023* are correlated to each week of instruction and facilitate weekly planning and language allocation decision making among collaborating teachers.

TEXT-BASED KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

Each unit is supported by a topic-aligned set of grade-level complex texts that include Short and Extended Reads, Read-Alouds, Vocabulary Practice Texts, and a Knowledge-Building Topic Library with multiple titles for small group and independent reading. An essential question and set of knowledge goals (Enduring Understandings) focus discussion and text analysis throughout the unit. Students participate daily in Constructive Conversations as they apply metacognitive comprehension strategies and relate each text to the Essential Question and Enduring Understandings. Students also complete a collaborative Research & Inquiry project in each unit where they investigate a self-selected topic that relates to the unit topic. Students then present their findings by choosing one of a variety of formats, including use of multimedia. These opportunities support creative thinking and problem-solving.