

Biliteracy Snapshot

Purpose: This document provides a quick-reference snapshot of a Spanish instructional program. The Biliteracy Snapshot can be used along with the [Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\) Instructional Program Review Tool](#) to identify programs that are inclusive of culturally and linguistically diverse student groups.

This document is divided into two sections. Pages 1–2 provide a snapshot with abridged responses highlighting key points from vendor responses, while the unabridged original vendor responses begin on page 3. The information included in the snapshot was provided by the vendor; it is intended to support districts in reviewing and selecting Spanish instructional programs that promote bilingualism and biliteracy development for various program models. This document is informational only and does not constitute an endorsement by the CDE of any specific product, practice, service, publisher, or viewpoint.

Name of Program: Benchmark Fonética y estudio de palabras

Program focus: The program focuses on learning to read in Spanish. However, a separate program that teaches learning to read in English, specifically designed to complement and align with the Spanish reading program, is available for purchase. Both Spanish and English reading programs can be purchased from the same vendor. If selected, please provide:

- **The specific product title of the English reading program:** Benchmark Phonics and Word Study

Instructional program goal or goals: Bilingualism and Biliteracy: The program promotes the development of strong language skills in both Spanish and English, aiming for students to become proficient in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in both languages.

Explain and provided evidence of how the instructional program supports each of the goals or the goal above: Benchmark Fonética y estudio de palabras supports bilingualism and biliteracy when used in conjunction with its English counterpart, Benchmark Phonics and Word Study. The two programs are specifically designed to complement and align with one another.

Alignment and Integration Across Bilingual Models:

- The program begins with a Spanish-first progression grounded in the transparent, syllabic nature of Spanish, ensuring students establish strong decoding, word recognition, and phonological skills before expanding literacy across languages.

Evidence-Based Biliteracy Trajectories:

- The program begins with a Spanish-first progression grounded in the transparent, syllabic nature of Spanish.
- The program addresses Spanish-specific orthographic characteristics, high-frequency words, and language structures, reflecting the distinct developmental trajectory of Spanish literacy.

Bilingual Language Development Support:

- Fonética y estudio de palabras guides teachers in selecting and implementing language supports (Apoyar el desarrollo del idioma español) and scaffolds throughout the instructional materials.
- The program also includes cross-linguistic transfer notes that help teachers determine when to leverage students' English knowledge and when explicit contrastive instruction is needed.

Curriculum Mapping Across Languages:

- The bilingual implementation guide provides a side-by-side view of primary phonics or word study skills for each unit and week in Benchmark Fonética and Benchmark Phonics.

Comprehensive Biliteracy Support:

- The program's decodable texts introduce consistent grapheme–phoneme patterns in Spanish, with teachers guided to highlight similarities and differences in English orthography. For instance, recognizing that the Spanish “ll” and English “y” produce related sounds helps students apply decoding strategies in both languages.

Note: The unabridged original vendor responses are presented in full below.

- 1. Alignment and Integration Across Bilingual Models: Describe how the program provides guidance and resources adaptable to various bilingual education models (e.g., dual language, transitional bilingual, 90/10, 50/50, heritage language, etc.). Provide evidence (e.g., teacher guides, scope and sequence) demonstrating how Spanish and English program components are intentionally aligned to support integration and cross-language transfer.**

Vendor response: Benchmark Fonética y estudio de palabras provides flexible guidance and resources that can be adapted to a wide range of bilingual education models by offering a structured yet customizable approach to foundational literacy instruction. The program’s systematic phonics and word study lessons are designed to function effectively within different program models (e.g., dual language, transitional bilingual, 90/10, 50/50, heritage language, etc.) because instruction is organized around clear skill progressions, consistent routines, and explicit teaching practices that can be integrated into varied schedules and language allocations.

Benchmark Fonética y estudio de palabras aligns with research-based biliteracy trajectories by structuring foundational reading instruction to reflect how bilingual students develop literacy across two languages. The program begins with a Spanish-first progression grounded in the transparent, syllabic nature of Spanish, ensuring students establish strong decoding, word recognition, and phonological skills before expanding literacy across languages. This mirrors research showing that solid first-language literacy is the most reliable predictor of second-language reading success.

- 2. Evidence-Based Biliteracy Trajectories: Explain how the instructional design aligns with research-based biliteracy trajectories. Cite research and provide examples from the program showing how literacy skills are developed and connected across both languages.**

Vendor response: Benchmark Fonética y estudio de palabras aligns with research-based biliteracy trajectories by structuring foundational reading instruction to reflect how bilingual students develop literacy across two languages. The program begins with a Spanish-first progression grounded in the transparent, syllabic nature of Spanish, ensuring students establish strong decoding, word recognition, and phonological skills before expanding literacy across languages. This mirrors research showing that solid first-language literacy is the most reliable predictor of second-language reading success.

The instructional design intentionally supports cross-linguistic transfer by emphasizing skills that bridge Spanish and English, such as phonological awareness, orthographic patterns, and morphology. Teachers are guided to make explicit connections between languages when appropriate, reinforcing transfer without conflating language-specific features. At the same time, the program addresses Spanish-specific orthographic characteristics, high-frequency words, and language structures, reflecting the distinct developmental trajectory of Spanish literacy.

Vocabulary, language development, background knowledge, and comprehension instruction are integrated within phonics and word study lessons, aligning with biliteracy research that emphasizes the interdependence of language and literacy. Consistent routines, explicit modeling, and scaffolded practice further support bilingual learners by providing predictable structures across languages.

- 3. Bilingual Language Development Support: Describe and provide evidence of how the program guides teachers in selecting and implementing language supports based on students' proficiency levels in Spanish, English or both languages. Include examples of differentiation for diverse learner profiles, such as dually identified students, newcomers, sequential bilinguals, and simultaneous bilinguals.**

Vendor response: Benchmark Fonética y estudio de palabras guides teachers in selecting and implementing language supports (Apoyar el desarrollo del idioma español) and scaffolds throughout the instructional materials. Lessons include targeted supports such as modeled language routines, sentence frames, structured vocabulary introduction, and oral rehearsal opportunities. These supports help teachers adjust the level of linguistic demand based on students' Spanish proficiency and readiness for specific phonological or orthographic skills.

The program also includes cross-linguistic transfer notes that help teachers determine when to leverage students' English knowledge and when explicit contrastive instruction is needed. This guidance ensures teachers can anticipate potential challenges for bilingual students and tailor instruction to reinforce or clarify language-specific features.

- 4. Curriculum Mapping Across Languages: Provide evidence (e.g., pacing guides, language allocation plans, curriculum maps) showing how the instructional program intentionally designates which standards or units are taught in each language by grade level, and integrates thematic units to support simultaneous language and content development. Explain how cross-linguistic connections are intentionally built to support both content mastery and biliteracy development.**

Vendor response: Benchmark Fonética y estudio de palabras intentionally incorporates cross-linguistic connections to strengthen both content mastery and biliteracy development by helping students leverage what they know in one language to accelerate learning in the other. The bilingual implementation guide provides a side by side view of primary phonics or word study skills for each unit and weak in benchmark phonetic and benchmark phonics. The guide is designed to support educators and the effective implementation of bilingual instruction across languages. Teachers will find valuable information on the types of transfer between Spanish and English that can support cross linguistic instruction. The program guides teachers to highlight transferable skills—such as phonological awareness, syllable segmentation, consistent spelling patterns, cognates, and morphological structures—that support efficient reading development across Spanish and English. By making these skills explicit, the program enables students to apply familiar linguistic knowledge to new content, deepening understanding while reducing cognitive load.

5. Comprehensive Biliteracy Support: Demonstrate how the program provides explicit, coherent instruction in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in both Spanish and English. Provide examples showing how literacy components are aligned and reinforced across both languages.

Vendor response: Benchmark Fonética y estudio de palabras aligns and reinforces literacy components across Spanish and English by structuring instruction to leverage transferable skills while addressing language-specific features. Examples include:

- **Phonemic and Phonological Awareness:** Students practice segmenting, blending, and manipulating sounds in Spanish, which builds a foundation for similar skills in English.
- **Phonics and Decoding:** The program’s decodable texts introduce consistent grapheme–phoneme patterns in Spanish, with teachers guided to highlight similarities and differences in English orthography. For instance, recognizing that the Spanish “ll” and English “y” produce related sounds helps students apply decoding strategies in both languages.
- **High-Frequency and Academic Vocabulary:** Vocabulary instruction incorporates cognates (e.g., familia/family, importante/important) to expand students’ knowledge in both languages while promoting comprehension of content-area texts.
- **Fluency and Comprehension:** Shared reading routines emphasize phrasing, expression, and comprehension strategies in Spanish, which are then reinforced when students encounter parallel strategies in English.
- **Morphology and Language Structures:** Lessons explicitly teach prefixes, suffixes, and root words in Spanish with guidance for connecting these to English equivalents.