

Core Program Summary

Amplify Education, Inc, Amplify CKLA, 2025



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: Amplify Education, Inc.

Publication year (or edition): 2025

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CKLA Instructional Programming Summary

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.

Introduction

Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) for Grades K–5 is a fully aligned program grounded in the Science of Reading that intentionally builds the skills and knowledge needed to develop confident and proficient readers, writers, and critical thinkers. The program supports educators in empowering students to work comprehensively across the key areas of literacy—speaking, listening, reading, and writing—with effective print and digital resources. Separate Skills and Knowledge Strands in K–2 provide a research-based phonics sequence alongside critical knowledge-building to prepare for reading, comprehension, and writing. By Grades 3–5, the strategic integration of skills- and knowledge-building deepens students’ command of content and vocabulary as they apply reading and writing skills to an increasing range of texts and topics. For additional instruction in foundational skills beyond Grade 2, Amplify CKLA 3rd Edition provides Grades 3-5 Skills supplements to reinforce and build on the K–2 Skills Strand.

Amplify CKLA 3rd Edition is built on the successful foundation of the 2nd Edition, which has demonstrated efficacy nationwide. Our 3rd Edition, which is aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards, improves and enhances our Knowledge sequence with new and refreshed units and streamlined pacing to ensure all units can be completed within the instructional year. It also includes fully integrated writing instruction based on the Science of Writing. Teachers have access to a new digital platform with presentation screens, skill-building practice games, and standards-based reporting from automatically-scored assessments.

Amplify CKLA increases literacy and background knowledge across subject areas with informational and literary texts organized coherently to build students’ reading, writing, listening and speaking skills with:

- Regular instruction with complex text.
- Strong exposure to academic vocabulary.
- Decodable student readers.
- Read-Aloud text for rich, structured, teacher-led discussions.
- Writing across genres is connected to reading.

Amplify CKLA supports teachers in the systematic teaching of reading and writing, provides essential time for review and practice to build automaticity and fluency, and engages students with literary and informational texts to build their vocabulary, knowledge, and love of reading. Teacher Guides, the Program Guide, and additional planning documents on the digital Amplify Classroom platform assist teachers in pacing the instruction across the ELA block for each grade. Implementation resources, guides, videos, planners, and point-of-use differentiation strategies, among other tools, support teachers in guiding students through Amplify’s core literacy sequence.

The digital Amplify Classroom platform also offers a variety of additional resources to enhance teaching and learning. These include multimedia resources that can be played or projected during lessons, such as ready-made Teacher Presentation Screens, digital Flip Books, and projectable Visual Supports and Image Cards. Other resources include e-books and audiobook versions of Readers, Sound Library videos to model the articulation of the 44 phonemes, and Assignable Practice Games designed to reinforce and strengthen Skills development.

Amplify CKLA includes caregiver resources designed to support student learning at home, such as activity suggestions and guidance on reinforcing classroom concepts. These materials often provide insights into the curriculum’s goals and objectives, enabling caregivers to effectively contribute to their child’s educational development. In addition, the Amplify Caregiver Hub enables parents and guardians to gain insights into the program and offers strategies to effectively support students’ learning at home.

Principles of Amplify CKLA

In order to read successfully--or to gain meaning from a text--students need to master two things: they must convert the written words into speech, and they must be able to understand that speech. In other words, students must be able to decode words and comprehend their meanings, then synthesize them into the text's overall message. Each aspect of this process is important: a student who can decode but not comprehend is not reading successfully. Nor is a student who cannot decode.

Amplify CKLA reflects this process by teaching explicit foundational skills and building students' background knowledge.

Amplify CKLA offers explicit foundational skills and language instruction.

On average, it takes a child two to three years to learn to decode English. It is the toughest alphabetic writing system in the world. Explicitly teaching foundational skills from the early grades is essential to helping students master the code and learn to read words automatically and effortlessly. Amplify CKLA's explicit instruction in spelling patterns transitions students from spending excess energy on decoding (learning to read) to fluent automaticity, so they can focus on comprehension and analysis (reading to learn). Students apply the conventions of English grammar, punctuation, and spelling, both orally and in writing. In Grades K–2, a daily Skills Strand focuses on developing phonological and phonemic awareness and decoding skills, equipping students to read and understand increasingly complex texts as the year progresses. Phonics instruction guides educators in explicitly teaching over 150 spellings for the 44 sounds of English, with an intentional progression and review of skills. Student Readers are 100% decodable, which means they include only words with letter-sound correspondences that have been explicitly taught. These Readers, designed as engaging chapter books, support students in practicing the code, mastering text and story elements, developing comprehension, and interacting with increasingly complex text.

In addition, the Skills Strand teaches these skills in tandem with handwriting, spelling, and composing, aligning with the strong connections between reading and writing. This strand works alongside knowledge to prepare students for a more integrated approach to reading and writing that they will encounter in Grades 3–5. By Grade 3, students have mastered both basic and advanced decoding skills, so explicit instruction transitions to advanced spelling patterns and morphology. For students needing additional support in foundational skills in Grade 3, Amplify CKLA 3rd Edition provides a Skills supplement to Grades 3-5 core instruction that reinforces and extends K–2 Skills Strand instruction. Teachers can use this instruction flexibly as a support for their core instruction to extend daily lessons or as an intervention solution, based on their students' needs

Amplify CKLA builds knowledge across content and topic areas.

While decoding skills are essential for reading, they alone cannot create proficient readers. Students must also develop robust vocabulary and background knowledge to truly comprehend complex texts. This understanding drives the design of Amplify CKLA, which places knowledge at the heart of literacy instruction through carefully curated literary and informational texts.

Research reveals that elementary students can understand far more through listening than they can read independently. Our interactive Read-Aloud lessons capitalize on this advantage, allowing students to engage with sophisticated texts and activate background knowledge from the very beginning of their literacy journey.

The CKLA Knowledge domains follow a deliberate sequence, using rich and authentic Read-Aloud texts that systematically build knowledge and understanding both within each grade and across grade levels. The knowledge sequence's breadth of content ensures that students encounter relevant and complex texts that reflect the text characteristics and genres required by standards at each grade level. Each unit seamlessly integrates vocabulary

development, knowledge building, reading comprehension, and writing skills—all anchored by compelling topics that capture students' interest. As students progress, they encounter a strategic balance of text types. The amount of informational text increases gradually each year, eventually balancing with literary texts such as classic and contemporary fiction, poetry, and drama. This approach comes alive through diverse, engaging topics: First graders explore fables, fairy tales, and stories from around the world while learning about the human body, astronomy, and early civilizations. By fourth grade, students delve into innovations and inventions, geology, poetry, and award-winning novels—building a foundation of knowledge that supports lifelong learning.

In the integrated instructional strand (Grades 3-5), students move fluidly between reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language activities. Through these activities, students continue to build background knowledge, with an increasing emphasis on individual and small-group interactions with complex texts.

In Amplify CKLA 3rd Edition, students are introduced to engaging authentic literature through Novel Studies and culminating Research Units at each grade level. In the seventh unit of Amplify CKLA instruction for Grades 3–5, classes participate in Novel Studies, providing students the opportunity to read, discuss, and write about a complete authentic text, thereby enhancing their literacy skills and nurturing a love for reading. Each grade concludes with a dedicated Research Unit that features a varied selection of trade books. Throughout these Research Units, students engage in the writing process that is integral to their research projects. Instruction in these units demonstrates inquiry and research methods, with students conducting independent research, including topic selection, using a variety of sources, and presenting their projects.

Amplify CKLA supports text-based discussions.

Amplify CKLA includes explicit instructions for facilitating interactive, guided discussions of text. Through daily reading and Read-Aloud activities, students participate in discussions requiring textual evidence, developing deeper analysis and comprehension skills.

Amplify CKLA provides extensive reading practice through original, decodable Student Readers. In the Grades K-2 Skills Strand, these Student Readers (written in the form of engaging chapter books) use only the letter-sound correspondences students have already mastered, making them fully decodable at grade level. Students use these texts to practice decoding, build fluency, develop comprehension, and expand vocabulary, with text-based discussions and comprehension activities following each selection.

Knowledge Strand Read-Aloud texts are organized around specific content domains and positioned well above students' decoding ability. Since research shows that listening comprehension outpaces reading comprehension in early years, these complex texts allow students to hear sophisticated syntax modeled regularly. Through rich content and robust vocabulary, students build comprehension skills and develop a strong foundation for text-based responses through close reading.

Once students master the code in Grade 3, Student Readers are no longer phonetically controlled. In Grades 3-5, students expand their reading skills by engaging with more complex words and texts through morphology and word study, while spending increased time on fluency, grammar, spelling, writing, and vocabulary development.

As students progress, they demonstrate increasing independence in reading, analyzing, and discussing texts that become more nuanced and open to interpretation. Read-Alouds continue building deeper understanding of unit topics, while students also engage in partner and independent reading. Activities emphasize debate and discussion, while writing becomes increasingly independent. Throughout this progression, instruction consistently emphasizes textual evidence and literary device analysis. However, as students become more sophisticated readers and writers, the range of potential responses and opportunities for self-expression expand significantly.

Amplify CKLA supports writing instruction grounded in the Science of Writing.

Amplify CKLA 3rd Edition incorporates daily writing instruction across Grades K-5, following a “learn to write, write to learn” approach. Amplify CKLA’s writing instruction is grounded in the Simple View of Writing, which integrates transcription skills with composition skills to develop both the mechanical and expressive abilities students need for effective and skilled writing.

Transcription skills, including handwriting and spelling, must become automatic to free up cognitive energy for composition. Students develop this automaticity through explicit instruction and deliberate practice aligned with our phonics scope and sequence. Once these mechanics are mastered, students can focus on the creative aspects of writing, leading to clearer and more effective written communication.

Composition skills develop through consistent practice, and flourish when students have deep knowledge of topics. Amplify CKLA systematically builds background knowledge and vocabulary within and across grade levels, empowering students to express their ideas with confidence and precision. Through structured planning, drafting, and revising, students learn to communicate their ideas clearly while adapting their writing for different purposes and audiences.

Students engage with a full range of writing types throughout Amplify CKLA units: narrative, informational, opinion, poetry, and research writing. All Knowledge Strand domains and integrated units include both short- and long-term writing projects. Each writing form is explicitly taught through a carefully sequenced series of lessons that gradually build student independence.

Amplify CKLA emphasizes essential writing building blocks that help students express ideas effectively at the sentence level. These include practice with a variety of sentence types, and building, combining, and expanding sentences. Beginning with oral activities in early grades, these foundational writing skills transition to written form and strengthen as students advance. Writing building blocks are integrated seamlessly across all units to support growth in writing proficiency.

Amplify CKLA provides a robust suite of assessments.

Amplify CKLA offers a robust suite of assessments to ensure that teachers have all the information they need to monitor student progress, inform placement and interventions, and adapt instruction to fit student needs. Assessments range from low-stakes, informal formative assessment opportunities to more formal summative assessments. Teachers may strategically implement the desired assessments to measure student progress and adjust instruction. Amplify CKLA assessments include:

- Daily checks for understanding delivered briefly during instruction
- Daily formative assessments aligned to each lesson that allow students to demonstrate learning on that day’s instruction
- Domain and unit assessments given at the end of each domain and unit, that assess students’ understanding of content and vocabulary covered in the unit
- Student Performance Assessments given three times a year, that are an evaluation of grade-level skills and content. The beginning-of-year assessment provides a baseline or initial understanding of students’ skills, and the middle- and end-of-year assessments help to determine students’ learning of grade level skills. They help to target instruction for students and aid in decisions around which students may need differentiated support.

Amplify CKLA 3rd Edition provides educators with digital unit-level assessments for the K–2 Knowledge Strand and 3–5 integrated units. Educators can easily track students’ understanding of standards and content through assessments that measure vocabulary, comprehension, and knowledge development within each unit. End-of-domain (in Grades K–2) and

end-of-unit (in Grades 3–5) assessments are automatically scored to provide immediate insights into students’ current level of understanding and identify opportunities to tailor instruction based on needs. Amplify CKLA 3rd Edition also allows educators to view digital assessment results on interactive dashboards with detailed breakdowns. Dashboard reports show individual student and class performance, strengths and growth opportunities for individuals, small groups, or entire classes.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE? – READ Act Core Programming

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