

Core Program Summary

American Reading Company, ARC Core, 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 Phonological and Phonemic Awareness, Phonics and Word Study, and Listening Comprehension. Partially Meets Expectations in Vocabulary.

First Grade: Meets Expectations in Phonological and Phonemic Awareness, Phonics and Word Study, Vocabulary, and Reading Comprehension. Partially Meets Expectations in Text Reading and Fluency.

Second Grade: Meets Expectations in Phonics and Word Study, Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension. Partially Meets Expectations in Vocabulary.

Usability: Meets Expectations

Vendor Information and Program Summary

Vendor: American Reading Company

Publication year (or edition): 2025

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This program was approved for use in:

- ✓ **Kindergarten**
- ✓ **First Grade**
- ✓ **Second 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.

Website: www.americanreading.com

Vendor provided summary:

ARC Core (K-12) is a comprehensive, knowledge-building English Language Arts (ELA) program grounded in the science of reading, writing, and learning. Organized into four topical units per year, ARC Core systematically develops students' reading and writing while expanding knowledge in science, social studies, and literary genres. The program integrates explicit foundational skills instruction with complex, content-rich texts and curated libraries across a range of complexities. Students engage in rigorous text analysis, cross-textual research, academic discourse, and evidence-based writing. Embedded support ensures access for multilingual learners and striving readers while maintaining grade-level expectations.

Explicit Foundational Skills Instruction

In ARC Core, foundational skills are taught through explicit, systematic whole-group instruction. Structured lesson formats provide clear routines and protocols that support effective instruction. Lessons include scripted guidance for teachers, discussion routines, and targeted callouts that support differentiation, remediation, and extension.

Word Study Notebooks and Decodable Text Anthologies featuring more than 30 individual texts provide practice that builds accuracy and automaticity aligned to the program's scope and sequence and essential unit vocabulary. Advanced Word Study progressively deepens instruction to include morphology, vocabulary development, and analysis of complex word structures. Daily writing provides consistent opportunities for students to practice encoding and apply their growing knowledge of spelling patterns and word structure.

Knowledge-Building Units

ARC Core provides multiple opportunities for students to activate and connect background knowledge to new learning through research and discussion. Research topics are intentionally sequenced so knowledge builds coherently within and across grade levels. For example, students may begin exploring bugs in a kindergarten entomology unit, study insects within ecosystems in second grade, and by fifth grade apply that accumulated knowledge to more complex ecosystem concepts.

Grade-level and above-grade-level core texts anchor daily whole-group instruction, introducing key concepts while building vocabulary and comprehension to support research. These literary and informational texts also serve as models of effective writing, helping students analyze how authors communicate ideas, organize information, and use language for specific purposes. As students progress, ARC Core requires increasingly sophisticated reading, research, and writing. Students work with a wide variety of texts and synthesize their learning in authentic final writing projects that deepen understanding and reinforce knowledge.