

Core Program Summary

Benchmark Education Company, LLC, Benchmark Advance,
2026



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 Phonics and Word Study, Text Reading and Fluency and Reading Comprehension. Partially Meets Expectations in Vocabulary

Usability: Meets Expectations

Vendor Information and Program Summary

Vendor: Benchmark Education Company, LLC

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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.

Vendor provided summary:



Effective, Student-Centered Instruction

Benchmark Advance ©2026 is a comprehensive, research-based English Language Arts (ELA) program designed to support high-quality literacy instruction for all students. Grounded in the science of reading, the program integrates explicit, systematic foundational skills instruction with rich, knowledge-building content to develop proficient, confident readers, writers, and thinkers. Students engage in collaborative discussions, close reading, and purposeful writing that deepen understanding and active learning.

A report by John Hopkins University's Center for Research and Reform in Education found that *Benchmark Advance* students outscored matched peers by 18.5 points on the Spring 2024 Star Reading assessment, controlling for prior achievement and demographic variables. In a public school district in Connecticut, 1,113 students in Grades 1–4 demonstrated statistically significant gains on DIBELS. These gains were accompanied by significant improvements on the state assessment, where Grade 4 students increased SBA reading proficiency from 33% to 46%. These outcomes highlight the program's ability to drive achievement and support success for all students.

Strong Foundations in Reading

At the core of *Benchmark Advance* ©2026 is a structured literacy approach that ensures students receive direct instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Skills are taught explicitly and systematically, with cumulative review and ample opportunities for guided and independent practice. This approach is paired with authentic reading and writing experiences that promote critical thinking, collaboration, and meaningful engagement with complex texts.

Knowledge-Building Through Diverse Texts

The program is organized around ten knowledge-building units, aligned to grade-level standards, that integrate reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students engage with a range of literary and informational texts that reflect multiple perspectives, cultures, and experiences. These texts are carefully curated to build background knowledge and vocabulary while fostering a deep understanding of content across disciplines.

Designed for All Learners

Benchmark Advance ©2026 is designed with all learners in mind. Built-in differentiation supports teachers in meeting the needs of a wide range of students, including multilingual learners, students with disabilities, and advanced learners. Scaffolded instruction, targeted intervention resources, and strategic supports, such as language development scaffolds and multimodal learning opportunities, ensure access to grade-level content. Additionally, embedded guidance helps teachers adjust instruction in real time based on student needs.

Data-Driven Instruction & Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of the program. A comprehensive assessment system includes screening, diagnostic, formative, and summative tools that provide actionable data to inform instruction. Teachers can use these insights to monitor progress, identify areas for reteaching, and provide targeted support to accelerate learning.

Digital Innovation & Flexible Learning

Benchmark Advance ©2026 also offers a digital experience that enhances instruction and accessibility. Interactive resources, adaptive learning tools, and flexible delivery options support both in-class and remote learning environments. The program's digital platform streamlines planning, instruction, and assessment, enabling educators to efficiently access materials and respond to student data.



Preparing Students for Lifelong Literacy & Learning

With its alignment to the Colorado Academic Standards and its emphasis on evidence-based practices, *Benchmark Advance* ©2026 equips educators with the tools and support needed to deliver effective literacy instruction. By combining strong foundational skills with meaningful, knowledge-rich learning experiences, the program prepares students for academic success and lifelong literacy.