# Core Program Summary

## Benchmark Workshop (2021)

### Information

**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 Marisa Calzadillas at Calzadillas\_m@cde.state.co.us.

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:**

* Phonological and Phonemic Awareness – Meets Expectations
* Phonics and Word Study – Meets Expectations
* Vocabulary – Meets Expectations
* Text Reading and Fluency – Partially Meets Expectations
* Reading Comprehension – Meets Expectations

**Second Grade:** Meets Expectations in all reading components.

**Third Grade:** Meets Expectations in all reading components.

**Usability:** Does not Meet Expectations

**Review Comments:** A clear map of what needs to be taught should be created (workshop strands, components of strands etc.) v. following the general literacy block guidelines. Please submit this to the CDE once crafted.

### Vendor Information and Program Summary

**Vendor: Benchmark Education Company LLC**

**Publication year (or edition): 2021**

**Contact Information**

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**Vendor provided summary:**

*Benchmark Workshop™* is a set of literacy modules for Grades K-3 that combine to create a complete English Language Arts solution for teachers implementing comprehensive literacy instruction -- using a flexible workshop model. ***Reader’s Workshop*** provides whole-group mini-lessons, leveled texts for small group, and resources to support independent reading and conferring; ***Writer’s Workshop*** provides mini-lessons on the writing process, the craft of writing, and responses to reading, with support for small-group instruction, independent writing, and conferring; ***Phonics & Word Study Workshop*** provides sequential, systematic and explicit direct phonics instruction and differentiated practice through authentic reading and writing experiences and multisensory activities.  The instructional components of *Benchmark Workshop* reflect a balanced best-practice pedagogy that emphasizes differentiated instruction to support all students, including: Advanced Learners; on-level; struggling; reluctant; Special Needs Learners and English Language Learners. *Reader’s Workshop*, *Writer’s Workshop* and *Phonics & Word Study Workshop* may be used independently or all together as a complete comprehensive solution.

A complete program overview is available at <http://www.benchmarkworkshop.com/>

### WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE? – READ Act Core Programming

[**READ Act Instructional Programming Review Process**](https://www.cde.state.co.us/node/%2051125)

[**READ Act Advisory Lists**](https://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/readact/programming)

[**READ Act Home Page**](https://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy)