# Core Program Summary

## McGraw Hill, Open Court Reading, 2023

### 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 [READAct@cde.state.co.us](mailto:READAct@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

**First Grade:** Meets Expectations

**Second Grade:**  Meets Expectations

**Third Grade:** Meets Expectations

**Usability:** Meets Expectations

### Vendor Information and Program Summary

**Vendor:** McGraw Hill

**Publication year (or edition):** 2023

**Contact Information**

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**Vendor provided summary:**

Grounded in decades of literacy research and a proven history of efficacy in the classroom*, SRA Open Court Reading* has been building strong readers, writers, and thinkers for more than 60 years. The instruction in *Open Court Reading* is based upon the findings from learning theory and cognitive science, also known as the Science of Reading. The program’s approach to instruction and carefully crafted instructional plan has been proven to achieve reading gains in a diverse range of readers from beginning level to fluent.

The *Open Court Reading* English Language Arts curriculum is based upon the purposeful progression of skill instruction within three strands of instruction: Foundational Skills, Reading and Responding, and Language Arts. Foundational Skills focus on oral language, phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, encoding, fluency, and word analysis. Reading and Responding addresses comprehension, vocabulary, knowledge building, and inquiry through close reading of complex texts. Language Arts covers the writing process, penmanship, grammar, word usage, and the mechanics of writing. All three instructional strands are supported at point of use with differentiated resources for English Learners and students at all ability levels.

Teacher Editions provide a clear blueprint for weekly and daily instruction and a straightforward lesson design of the three strands. Teacher tools and student materials such as sound/spelling cards, decodable books, workbooks, anthologies, and writer’s workbooks are connected to and specified within each lesson in the Teacher Edition.

The Lesson and Unit Assessments and Benchmark Assessments help teachers measure students’ understanding of the instructional content and use the results to inform and differentiate instruction, especially for students needing some type of intervention to ensure they will not be at risk for reading failure.

*Open Court Reading* continues to evolve in response to new technology, teacher feedback, and the latest relevant research. Forthcoming program enhancements include an oral reading fluency tool and a differentiation guide for small group skill instruction. The continued refinement of *Open Court Reading* empowers all teachers to make research actionable and all students to become successful readers.