



Curriculum Materials for Evidence-Based Reading Instruction Rubric

This rubric guides users through a reflective evaluation process to determine how well a given program aligns with local instructional needs and priorities.

Act 135 requirements for Curriculum Material	<i>The curricula ...</i>
1. Aligns with the Pennsylvania Standards and the Science of Reading	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Includes a logical scope and sequence for explicit, systematic, and cumulative instruction	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Incorporates phonemic awareness, the alphabetic principle, decoding, encoding, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and building content knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>

K–3 Core Curriculum Material Inclusion Rubric		
Criteria	NO	YES
Has the core curriculum material been evaluated by The Reading League?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the core curriculum material been evaluated by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and appears on the CDE Core Curriculum Materials list?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the core curriculum material been evaluated by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODE) and appears on the ODE Core Curriculum Materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the core curriculum material been evaluated by EdReports?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	If the answers are all “No” as of the list updated date, the core curriculum material will not appear on the PDE list.	If any of the above answers are “ Yes ” as of the list updated date, the core curriculum material will be listed

Curriculum Materials Clearinghouses

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the PDE Reading Leadership Council (Council) identified The Reading League, the Colorado Department of Education, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and EdReports as clearinghouses for reading curriculum materials. These organizations are nationally recognized and provide high-quality, evidence-based resources to support schools in making informed decisions about literacy programming and have review processes that are in alignment with the requirements of Act 135 for reading curriculum materials.

In this context, a *clearinghouse* refers to a repository of programs or materials that have been evaluated using a transparent, research-based process. Such repositories may be housed within federally funded centers, private organizations, nonprofits, or state education agencies.

The Reading League

[The Reading League: Curriculum Navigation Reports](#)

The Reading League is a national nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that all educators who teach students to read use evidence-aligned practices, resulting in successful reading outcomes for their students by increasing awareness, understanding, and use of evidence-aligned reading instruction. The Reading League conducts reviews of kindergarten through 5th grade core curricula using its review tool, which was developed in 2023. The Reading League looks for both practices aligned with the Science of Reading and red-flag practices that are not aligned with the Science of Reading. It then produces a detailed report on the reviewed curriculum, including a description of the program, scores for each component, overall findings, and publisher responses, if applicable. The Reading League does not provide overall scores or composite ratings. The Reading League scores on PDE's lists represent a summary of how a curriculum scored on specific components or overall. The ratings were created by PDE for the purposes of the lists and thus are not intended to replace full, detailed scores from the Reading League reports.

Colorado Department of Education

[Colorado Department of Education: Approved Instructional Programs](#)

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) reviews reading curricula, literacy interventions, universal literacy screeners, and professional development in alignment with the Colorado Reading to Ensure Academic Development (READ) Act. Colorado approves kindergarten through 3rd grade materials in each of these areas that are aligned with the requirements of its law. The CDE has updated its process slightly over time; however, most of the requirements have stayed the same. Summary sheets on approved programs provide high-level information, but information on how a given program scored on review components is available only upon request. The CDE does not provide information on programs that applied but were not approved.

Ohio Department of Education and Workforce

[Ohio Department of Education: Approved List of Core Curriculum and Instructional Materials](#)

Under Ohio Revised Code 3313.6038(B), the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODE) is responsible for establishing a list of language arts core curricula and materials aligned with the Science of Reading and effective literacy strategies. To develop its list, the ODE reviewed submitted materials against rubrics to ensure that content quality and technical considerations were evaluated. Ohio's approved list of core curricula and instructional materials provides links to company websites and information on the approved programs, grade levels, and associated professional development. The ODE does not provide information on programs that applied for review but were not approved.

EdReports

[EdReports: Curriculum Materials](#)

EdReports is an independent nonprofit organization committed to enhancing kindergarten through 12th grade education by ensuring access to high-quality instructional materials that improve student learning outcomes. EdReports aims to empower districts with evidence-rich, comprehensive information on programs. EdReports conducts reviews of literacy core curriculum for kindergarten through 12th grade and supplemental intervention materials for kindergarten through 2nd grade, using three review tools developed between 2016 and 2025. EdReports has different review tools for each material type and filters that include grade level, included content areas, and ratings. Reports on each reviewed program provide complete information on scores for review tool components for each grade level. EdReports does not provide information on which programs were invited for review and declined.

What if a product is not on the list?

The [PDE Curriculum Materials for Evidence-Based Reading Instruction](#) is intended as an at-a-glance list of the most recent editions of both curriculum materials and review tools positively reviewed by clearinghouses identified by PDE and the Reading Leadership Council (Council). This list indicates whether a curriculum material met expectations for two or more clearinghouses, or only one clearinghouse. A table focused on core reading instruction curriculum materials to support Spanish-speaking learners is also provided.

The [PDE Reading Curriculum Materials Comprehensive Resource \(Excel\)](#) provides a more in-depth view of clearinghouse curriculum material ratings in a format that can be easily sorted. This document includes all core curriculum material reviewed by the identified clearinghouses, including those on the [PDE Curriculum Materials for Evidence-Based Reading Instruction](#), as well as prior editions of materials, those that were reviewed using prior versions of clearinghouse review tools, and materials that did not meet Act 135 expectations. The list is presented alphabetically with different editions of given curriculum materials for comparison but can be reorganized as needed.

If a product meets the criteria within the rubric but is not on the resource list, a vendor or local education agency may submit an application to PDE for consideration. [Link to application Microsoft form.](#)

A product or service that does not meet the above criteria is not eligible for consideration by PDE and may not submit an application until the product or service meets the established criteria.

For more information about the evaluation process of each clearinghouse, see the links below:

- [The Reading League](#)
- [Colorado Department of Education](#)
- [Ohio Department of Education and Workforce](#)
- [EdReports](#)

PDE will review applications and update lists quarterly after January 1, 2026.

Questions may be directed to ra-edstructuredlit@pa.gov.

Additional Curriculum Materials Resources

[Curriculum Materials for Evidence-Based Reading Instruction List](#)

[Curriculum Materials for Evidence-Based Reading Instruction Comprehensive Resource \(Excel\)](#)

[Curriculum Materials for Evidence-Based Reading Instruction Guidance](#)

Additional Act 135 Resources

[Professional Development Training Programs](#)

[Reading Universal Screeners](#)

[Reading Intervention and Supplementary Curriculum Materials](#)