

Elementary K-6 Language Arts Basal Resource Adoption

February 2024

Virginia Literacy Act Requirements

- The Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2022 and expanded in 2023, focuses on improving literacy outcomes for all students in the Commonwealth.
- The VLA requires that “each local school board shall provide a program of literacy instruction that is aligned with science-based reading research and provides evidenced-based literacy instruction to students in kindergarten through grade 8.”
- To support school divisions to comply with this requirement, the VLA requires the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to recommend instructional programs—including core, supplemental, and intervention materials—for approval by the Virginia Board of Education (VBOE).



Overview of FCPS Review Process

In accordance with **Regulation 3004**:

- FCPS evaluated resources on the state approved list
- Conducted a 30-day public review
- Convened an Instructional Resource Review Committee (IRRC) to review and recommend a resource for adoption
- Evaluated cost proposals

In accordance with **Regulations 6225** and **6710**:

- Conducted IT and security reviews of resources



Timeline

June 2023: Virginia Board of Education adopts the first set of approved K-3 core literacy programs

July 2023: 30-Day public review of resources

July - August 2023: Instructional Resource Review Committee evaluation of resources

November 2023: Virginia Board of Education adopts additional K-3 and 4-5 core literacy programs

November - December 2023: 30-Day public review of additional resources

January 2024: Instructional Resource Review Committee evaluation of resources and recommendations

January 2024: Cost evaluation and vendor negotiations

30 Day Public Review

July 2023: 30-Day public review of resources

- Resources were available for extended hours at Pimmit Hills Center
- Resources were available online
- The Language Arts team provided open house hours
- Public review comments were submitted and considered by the Instructional Resource Review Committee as part of the evaluation process

November - December 2023: 30-Day public review of additional resources

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Instructional Resource Review Committee

June 2023: School Board, Regional Assistant Superintendents, and ES School Principals Association provide names for the Elementary School Language Arts Basal Instructional Materials Adoption Committee

July 2023: School Board approves Instructional Resource Review committee members

In accordance with R3004, committee members included:

- 60% Teachers
- 20% School-based administrators
- 20% Community members

The committee represented:

- All regions of FCPS
- The diversity of Fairfax County
- A variation with respect to school demographics, grade levels, and school size

Comprehensive Review Process

The Instructional Resource Review Committee had the opportunity to review the proposed materials through a variety of methods:

- Online review
- In-person review
- Vendor demonstrations and questions

In July-August 2023 the committee met for 6-full days

- The committee was grounded in the Science of Reading and evaluation criteria
- 8 products were evaluated (all items from the Cycle I approved list)

In January 2024 the committee reconvened over 2 full days

- 4 state-approved products eliminated based on summer recommendations
- 2 state-approved products eliminated based on DIT review process
- 4 products were reviewed to make a final recommendation
 - 3 remaining products re-evaluated
 - 1 newly approved product was evaluated

Selection Criteria

Resources were evaluated by grade-level and scored in the following categories for alignment to FCPS and state standards:

Evidence-based Design:

- Sound Pedagogy
- Usability & Support

Evidence-based Content:

- Word Recognition & Encoding
- Language Comprehension
- Writing

Access & Differentiation for All

High Quality Culturally Responsive Texts & Materials

Committee Review Process

During vendor presentations, members individually completed a note's catcher with explicit "look fors"

After, grade level team members debriefed and completed a summary sheet, providing a score and evidence for each component

1. Evidence-Based Instruction: Design

Look at the program overview and other introductory materials to get a sense for the way the program is designed and take notes on the various aspects of **SOUND PEDAGOGY**. Look through teacher and student materials for a sense of their user-friendliness and take notes on **USABILITY AND SUPPORT**. This section of the rubric asks you to rate the program on the soundness of its design and on the ease of use of its materials for both teachers and students.

Features	Reviewer Guidance	Specific Evidence from the Text/Materials
A. Sound Pedagogy		
Program Structure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence-based 	Look for: → There is a separate word recognition block and language comprehension block → Writing instruction is present	
Scope and Sequence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear progression Cumulative Review 	Look for: → Scope and sequence that outlines each grade level's phonics and phonemic awareness → Review sections within the teacher manual that spiral back to previously taught concepts	
Pacing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasonable time frame Coherence across the various parts of the program. 	Look for: → Daily content can be completed within literacy block → Yearly content can be completed within school year → Different components of the program work together	
Alignment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information provided about VA SOL 	Look for: → VA Standards of Learning correlation chart → Content aligned with VA SS and Science standards	

Basal Program Summary Sheet for Grade _____

As a grade level group, please complete one form for each basal program reviewed.

Vendor/Program Name: _____

COMPONENT	EVIDENCE LEADING TO SCORE List strengths or weaknesses of the features that factored most prominently in the score for each component.	SCORE 1. Does Not Meet 2. Partially Meets 3. Meets 4. Exceeds
Evidence-based Design: Sound Pedagogy		
Evidence-based Design: Usability & Support		
Evidence-based Content: Word Recognition &		

Committee Final Recommendations

- After all vendor presentations were complete and each grade completed their summary sheet. Grade level teams provided a final rating:
 - Highly Recommend
 - Recommend
 - Do not Recommend
- Any resource with unanimous ratings of “do not recommend” across all grade levels were eliminated
- Remaining Resources were discussed in vertical teams with representatives across all grade levels
- After vertical conversations, grade levels made their final rankings and recommendation of programs.

Recommendation

At the conclusion of the January 2024 IRRC meetings, the selected resource for grades K-6 is:

Benchmark Education Company LLC, Benchmark Advance, 2022



Rationale For Curriculum Selection

The committee rationale included:

- Strong differentiation and cultural responsiveness
- Alignment with LETRS and Virginia SOLs
- Strong knowledge building across all areas of literacy, connected text examples, phonics building, and foundational skills with spiral review
- Includes:
 - integrated ELD resources aligned with WIDA
 - aligned assessments to track progress in-real time to inform instruction
 - built-in Tier 2 intervention resources
- Engaging and diverse books for students
- Easy to use for teachers of all experience levels

Third-Party Endorsements



- EdReports All-Green Rating

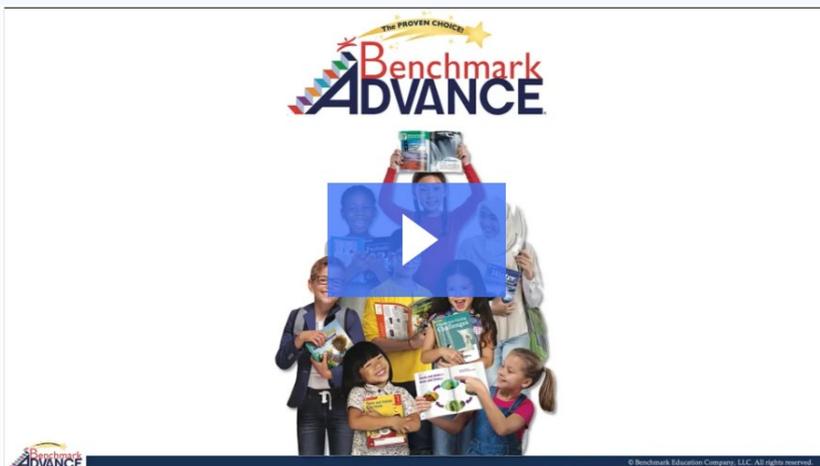


- Tech & Learning Award



- Excellence in Equity Award

Benchmark Overview Videos



Lesson Walkthrough Videos

Get acquainted with different parts of the Benchmark Advance/Adelante lessons.

Explicit Phonics Instruction: Grades K-2



Phonics Grades K-2 Lesson Walkthrough

Word Study Lessons



Word Study Grades 3-5 Lesson Walkthrough

Reading Lessons



Reading Grades K-5 Lesson Walkthrough

Writing Lessons



Writing Grades K-2 Lesson Walkthrough

Writing Lessons



Writing Grades 3-5 Lesson Walkthrough

<https://www.benchmarkadvance.com/virginia/>

Supplemental Resources and Program Materials

The following additional titles will be included in the contract for potential purchase. All products are aligned with the core program:

- **Benchmark Adelante 2023** - Spanish version for DLI
- **Benchmark Express** - English Language Development program
- **Benchmark Hello** - program to support newcomers
- **Benchmark Alphabet Animal Friends** - PreK product
- **Benchmark Steps to Advance** - supports language comprehension (Tier 2/3)
- **Benchmark Phonics Interventions** - supports phonics instruction (Tier 2/3)

Implementation and Professional Development Plan

- Resources will be implemented in all K-6 classrooms in SY 2024-25.
- Preview & Professional Development offered in the Spring
 - Admin & Literacy Leaders preview in March & Preview for Teachers on April 2
 - Vendor professional development in May for principals (ACPM), literacy leaders, and coaches
- Materials will be delivered to schools by June 1 for review at the end of the school year with digital access and asynchronous PD made available.
- Professional development will include:
 - Vendor will provide 850 days of PD over the 7 year contract
 - 18 coaching days (3 per region) included for year 1
 - Initial implementation PD will take place during the **K-6 Literacy Institutes**
 - 2 days vendor provided training focusing on each program component
 - Summer 24: Hosted at 6 locations with 6-10 trainers per site; participants will be grouped into like cohorts
 - Includes all K-6 classroom teachers, SPED teachers, ESOL teachers, and Advanced Academics teachers
 - Fall 24: Make-up sessions including “just in time” PD during inservice and follow-up days in early fall

School Board Next Steps

Contract Approval

- Consent: April 25