

Publisher Response: 95 Phonics Core Program

95 Phonics Core Program® (grades K–3) is a whole-class Tier 1 solution that provides explicit and systematic instruction in phonics and word study. It is a comprehensive phonics curriculum, written by educators for educators. The program is designed to equip students with a solid foundation for becoming strong and successful readers.

95 Phonics Core Program includes engaging components, an evidence-based scaffolded approach to phonics mastery, and the tools and knowledge teachers need to unlock the power of literacy for every child. The explicit, systematic, and cumulative instruction is designed to develop strong readers and reduce intervention needs. Overwhelming scientific evidence supports its effectiveness in teaching the foundational literacy skills that are essential to reading and academic growth.

✓ Instructional Design and Pedagogical Foundations of 95 Phonics Core Program

95 Phonics Core Program serves as a phonics and word study supplement designed to be taught alongside the other important strands of a school's reading and language arts curriculum. It is based on the science of reading and the principles of structured literacy. Its lessons were meticulously crafted and intentionally structured to emphasize a clear sequence of skills, deliberate repetition and practice, and opportunities to build upon prior knowledge. 95 Phonics Core Program provides explicit phonics instruction—giving teachers the guidance, instruction, and support they need while ensuring flexibility and responsiveness to the strengths, needs, capabilities, and skills of their students.

95 Phonics Core Program ensures cohesive phonics instruction across grade levels, because the resources align in these ways:

- **Evidence:** All instructional materials (grades K–3) align around evidence from the body of research known as the Science of Reading. Also, 95 Phonics Core Program is backed by high-quality efficacy studies that show how the instruction works.
- **Instructional Focus:** All instruction is aligned across the same scope and sequence of skills. It is also important to note that the instructional scope and sequence is cohesive throughout grades, laying the foundation for the alphabetic code.
- **Academic Language:** All instruction utilizes the same academic language, allowing students to hear and experience a cohesive vocabulary in all areas of learning.
- **Consistency of Instruction:** All lessons follow the “I Do, We Do, You Do” gradual release model and include cumulative reviews, enabling teachers to deliver instruction efficiently and focus on student responses.

- **Consistency of Routines:** In all areas of instruction, students are actively engaged in familiar routines (such as, sound-spelling mapping, word-chaining, and sentence dictation). This keeps them from having to devote significant cognition to processes and enables them to focus all their attention on learning the skills and concepts.

✓ **Efficacy Studies Demonstrating the Instructional Impact of 95 Phonics Core Program**

We feel it is important to note that 95 Phonics Core Program is backed by high-quality efficacy studies that show the instruction improves student outcomes. Guided by the findings of evidence-based research, the program has garnered “strong evidence of effectiveness (ESSA Level 1),” the highest level of evidence as defined by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Please see our listing at <https://www.evidenceforessa.org/program/95-phonics-core-program/>.

95 Phonics Core Program offers consistent routines, accompanied by precise academic language and an intentional cumulative design that has notably enhanced reading skills among students in grades K–2. Teachers using 95 Phonics Core Program saw an increase in skill application, student engagement, lesson clarity, and student independence which led to significant gains in students performing at or above grade-level benchmarks.

95 Phonics Core Program has been the subject of multiple efficacy studies. Studies include:

- 95 Phonics Core Program Study A, 2022 (Level 1: Strong): Grades K–2 (PDF)
- 95 Phonics Core Program Study B, 2022 (Level 2: Moderate): Grades K–2 (PDF)



✓ **Key Strengths and TEKS-Aligned Benefits of 95 Phonics Core Program**

Grounded in the research on the science of reading, student learning, and student engagement, 95 Phonics Core Program aligns with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills: Developing and Sustaining Foundational Language Skills for Grades K–3. Each grade of 95 Phonics Core Program (K–3) has received 100% correlation to the appropriate grade-level TEKS for phonics.

95 Phonics Core Program provides everything educators need to teach phonics, including pre-written, teacher scripts for direct instruction and modeling. Its group and independent practice help students become proficient and achieve mastery at their own pace.

95 Phonics Core Program’s instruction prioritizes student learning and support. It incorporates a variety of strategies and resources that are of particular benefit to English learners and students with reading disabilities. It aims to help these students engage with grade-level content and meet or surpass grade-level benchmarks. Students take part in a variety of activities, including group and independent practice, hands-on learning with manipulatives, writing tasks, and the use of decodable reading materials.

Continuous teacher-student interaction allows for immediate feedback, differentiation, and scaffolding tailored to individual needs. This ensures teachers can spend as much—or as little—time as necessary on a given skill. Balancing the pace of progress—which should be swift yet deliberate—is pivotal for student success.

✓ **Future Improvements**

During the 2024 and 2025 IMRA review cycles, 95 Phonics Core Program achieved 100% alignment with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for supplemental phonics across grades K–3. The program also performed strongly across most areas of the Quality and Suitability rubrics but fell short of full phonics rule compliance.

The invaluable feedback received throughout the IMRA review cycles has been reviewed in detail by our product development team. It will guide ongoing refinements to 95 Phonics Core Program as we work toward submitting a revised curriculum that earns full approval during a future IMRA cycle.