# Core Program Summary

## Great Minds, PBC, Wit & Wisdom 2023 with Really Great Reading and Geodes, 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:** Partially Meets Expectations

### Vendor Information and Program Summary

**Vendor:** Great Minds, PBC

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

**Contact Information**

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**Vendor provided summary:**

The combined offering of *Wit & Wisdom and* Really Great Reading provides educators and leaders with a coherent, comprehensive core ELA (English Language Arts) curriculum.

**Public Website:** <https://greatminds.org/english/witwisdom/really-great-reading>

With *Wit & Wisdom*®, *Geodes*®, and Really Great Reading®, educators have the essential instructional materials they need to support emerging readers with explicit phonics instruction, decoding practice, and a full system rooted in the science of reading. *Wit & Wisdom* builds language comprehension and reading and writing skills, while Really Great Reading focuses on foundational skills, such as phonemic awareness, decoding, encoding, spelling, handwriting, and vocabulary. With the extensive collection of *Geodes* books, students practice their decoding skills as they acquire knowledge of the world around them—developing fluency, vocabulary, and background knowledge needed for true reading comprehension. [**See How These Programs Align**](https://3454910.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/3454910/GM-%20Marketing%20Collateral%20Catalog/Collateral%20Catalog/Geodes/Geodes_Really%20Great%20R)**.**

The ***Wit & Wisdom*** approach to English Language Arts education is integrated and text-based: daily reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar, and vocabulary study is based on— and draws on evidence from—exceptional books. The texts in *Wit & Wisdom* are nationally published works of fiction and non-fiction that merit close reading and engage students in productive—and joyful—struggle. As a matter of equity, *Wit & Wisdom* lessons are designed to provide grade-level instruction for all students, creating a community of learners who all engage with the same texts and tasks. Embedded scaffolds and supports allow teachers to meet students where they are and provide alternative pathways to the same learning goals.

In each module, students write about what they read, learn grammar, and articulate the meaning of each text in formal and informal discussions with their peers. Students read texts in a purposeful sequence, increasing in complexity across the year and vertically through grade bands. This progression enables students to access, understand, and analyze complex texts meaningfully while developing the knowledge and skills needed to respond to these texts through writing and speaking. The curriculum is also designed with embedded instructional routines that expand students’ social-emotional development from grade to grade. *Wit & Wisdom’s* collaborative structures and learning frameworks evolve in age-appropriate complexity.

**Really Great Reading** provides students with a strong foundation for decoding to become confident and independent readers. Really Great Reading’s instructional approach combines direct, explicit, and multisensory techniques to support students understanding and use of the alphabetic principle. They employ scaffolded learning, gradually reducing support as students gain confidence. Lessons follow the gradual release model allowing teachers to demonstrate, practice, and facilitate independent transfer of skills. All lessons use multisensory techniques to help students build their decoding skills. The simultaneous use of sound and movement during systematic instruction, the visually and auditorily engaging animations, and the use of manipulatives such as letter tiles, color tiles, and SyllaBoards™, allow students to utilize multiple senses while learning. This is key to building the skills that emerging readers require and takes just 20-25 minutes daily.

As students construct a strong foundation for reading fluency, *Wit & Wisdom* provides them with English Language Arts instruction that ties to the same information-rich content covered in their *Geodes* books, ensuring that students develop knowledge that will support their reading proficiency and strengthen their comprehension skills.