# Core Program Summary

## Open Court

### 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 Marisa Calzadillas at Calzadillas\_m@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:**

* Phonological and Phonemic Awareness – Meets Expectations
* Phonics and Word Study – Meets Expectations
* Vocabulary – Partially Meets Expectations
* Listening Comprehension – Meets Expectations

**First Grade:** Meets Expectations in all reading components

**Second Grade:**

* Phonics and Word Study – Meets Expectations
* Vocabulary – Meets Expectations
* Text Reading and Fluency – Meets Expectations
* Reading Comprehension – Partially Meets Expectations

**Third Grade:** Meets Expectations in all reading components

**Usability:** Meets Expectations

### Vendor Information and Program Summary

**Vendor: McGraw Hill**

**Publication year (or edition): 2016**

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**Vendor provided summary:**

Open Court Reading is based on research-based instruction, teacher input, and learner verification. The independent research base used to develop Open Court Reading spans more than 50 years. Open Court Reading is effective because it reinforces student learning through systematic, explicit instruction. Teacher-informed, research-validated teaching and learning strategies create undeniable results for every learner.

The Teacher's Editions provide a comprehensive and detailed blueprint for instruction that includes explicit guidance for the teacher in each lesson, as well as Teacher Tips that help teachers meet the needs of all students in the classroom.

Through the use of Decodable Stories in Grades K-2, Big Books in Grades K-1, and Student Anthologies in Grades 1-2, students are provided with numerous opportunities to access text. Such reading opportunities provide strong oral vocabulary and language development, preparing students for increased comprehension.

Students learn to connect the sounds of the English language with the letter or grapheme representing the sound through the use of Sound/Spelling Cards. These cards are a resource for students to use to remember sound-spelling correspondences for both reading and writing.

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. It continues to create documented success in a diverse range of schools, districts, and student populations.

### WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE? – READ Act Core Programming

[**READ Act Instructional Programming Review Process**](https://www.cde.state.co.us/node/%2051125)

[**READ Act Advisory Lists**](https://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/readact/programming)

[**READ Act Home Page**](https://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy)