



Tier I Instruction

Tier I instruction is the students’ best first instruction. The needs of most students (80-85%) should be met at this tier if instruction is delivered by a classroom teacher that demonstrates knowledge of high quality, research based reading instruction and delivers instruction using high quality, research based materials. Notice in the sample below that the amount of time dedicated to specific components adapts as needed according to focus of whole and small group needs.

Sample of 90-minute Tier I Core Reading Instruction

Instruction	Range of Time	Class Configuration	Examples of Teacher-Led Activities					
The Reading Block 90 minutes minimum daily TOTAL TIME: <i>?? minutes scheduled</i>	TOTAL TIME: <i>?? min daily</i>	Whole Group	Resource: <i>What core program?</i>					
	TOTAL ROTATION TIME: <i>?? min Daily</i>	Differentiated Instruction: Small Group Instruction: Groups 1, 2, & 3		Resources: <i>What program(s)?</i>				
		<i>?? min daily per group</i>	M	T	W	Th	F	Group Instructional Focus
		Session 1						Group 1:
		Session 2						Group 2:
Session 3						Group 3:		
Classroom Intervention Additional Classroom Time w/teacher	TIME: <i>?? min daily</i>	Differentiated Intervention: 3 – 5 students		Resources: <i>What program(s)?</i>				
			M	T	W	Th	F	Instructional Focus:
Intervention Session								

Adjust the time between whole and small group instruction based on level and skill needs of students. Consider teaching grade level appropriate skills during whole group and differentiating the skills in small group time. Some students may need the grade level lesson repeated in small group; others may need scaffolding or acceleration of the skill.

Tier I Programming Considerations

Effective Tier I instruction should permit the majority of students in a school to meet interim assessment grade level benchmarks without the need for supplemental intervention or special education. Teachers that implement an effective core reading program include flexible grouping and target specific skills in order to meet the needs of most students. Use the checklist below to monitor the implementation of Tier 1 instruction.

Checklist for Implementing Tier I Instruction

- All K-3 students receive 90 minutes of literacy instruction daily
- Five essential components of literacy are taught and incorporate the Colorado Academic Standards using high quality research based materials
- Teachers demonstrate an understanding that literacy instruction includes both knowledge- and skill-based procedures
- Literacy is taught daily in both differentiated whole and small group formats based on student needs
- Instructional conversations routinely take place among instructional coach/ principal, interventionists, and classroom teachers after each interim assessment.