# Core Program Summary

## Benchmark Advance (2021)

### Information

**This program was approved for use in:**

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

**First Grade:**

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

**Second Grade:**

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

**Usability:** Meets Expectations

**Review Comments:** Although there are leveled readers as a part of the program, determining the appropriate use should not be reliant on running records or any assessment based on the three-cueing system. Clarity on how these texts are utilized was requested in initial review comments. Reader's Theater portion also aligns to "levels". How oral reading fluency is measured, and the text selection practices were not addressed within the appeal which impacted the outcome for the Text Reading & Fluency sections across the grade levels.

### Vendor Information and Program Summary

**Vendor: Benchmark Education LLC**

**Publication year (or edition): 2021**

**Contact Information**

**Name: Nolen S Harris**

**Role: Request for Proposal & Bid Manager**

**Address: 145 Huguenot Street, 8th Florr – New Rochelle, NY 10801**

**Number: (914) 560-1266**

**Email:** **nharris@benchmarkeducation.com**

**Vendor provided summary:**

*Benchmark Advance © 2021* is a K–2 standards-based, core ELA program which provides a cohesive framework for the development of literacy skills and content knowledge over time. This framework reflects scientific evidence (science of reading) about how children learn to read and expand their proficiency in the areas of phonological awareness, phonics and word study, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

*Benchmark Advance © 2021* is designed to meet the needs of all learners through systematic, evidence-based methods

In *Benchmark Advance © 2021*, the overall goal is to provide instruction that enables students to understand the meaning of the texts they are reading and will read in school and outside of school.

With *Benchmark Advance © 2021* every student has access to the resources and educational rigor they need at the right moment in their education, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, family background, or family income.

A complete program overview is available at <http://www.benchmarkadvance.com/>

### 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)