

PHONICS ADOPTION 2025 - SUMMARY OF REVIEWER FEEDBACK

95 Core

Overall, reviewers commented that the 95 Core Phonics program is comprehensive and thorough, but it may need additional resources and customization to fully meet the diverse needs of students and teachers.

Summary of Strengths:	Summary of Weaknesses:	Additional Comments:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well Organized: The program is structured and sequential, ensuring all students are exposed to essential phonics concepts. • Research-Based: Aligned with the Science of Reading, it offers explicit teaching of both phonics and spelling. • Mastery Emphasis: Consistent review to ensure retention. • Comprehensive: Includes workbooks, scripted lessons, diagnostic assessments, and online practice. • Multimodal Resources: Visual aids, sound spelling cards, and decodable passages in nonfiction and fiction. • Digital Component: Online resources for differentiation and practice can be assigned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customization Needs: May require additional time or customization for students with special learning needs or those advanced in phonics. • Rigidity: The structured approach may not suit every teacher’s style or flexibility in adapting to students’ needs. • Handwriting: No cursive handwriting component. • Time Constraints: Implementation may take over 30 minutes a day. • Materials Overload: The amount of materials and data reporting can be overwhelming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Platform: The online platform is separate and not embedded into the 30-minute instruction. • Assessment Opportunities: Needs more assessment opportunities (weekly). • Support for ELL Students: Questions about the impact on ELL students who do not speak English and the support offered. • Alignment with Standards: Concerns about the match with new standards and the third-grade rigor level need to be addressed. • Consumable Workbooks: Queries about whether student workbooks are consumable and supplied every year. • Program Purchase: Full effectiveness requires purchasing all components of the program.

Fundations

Overall, reviewers commented that Fundations is a thorough and vetted phonics resource that provides explicit, systematic instruction with a strong emphasis on multi-sensory learning. However, it currently lacks comprehensive coverage for grades 4-5 and may require significant teacher preparation and additional resources for full effectiveness.

Summary of Strengths:	Summary of Weaknesses:	Additional Comments:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explicit, Systematic Instruction: Aligned with the Science of Reading, providing clear guidance for teachers. • Multi-Sensory Learning: Strong emphasis on multi-sensory approaches. • Comprehensive Materials: Includes student and teacher materials, vocabulary and comprehension strategies, cursive writing introduced in 3rd grade, and decodable readers. • Assessment Tools: Universal screeners, foundational diagnostics, and unit tests. • Professional Development: PD included opening and 7 times throughout the year, digital support with videos. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited Grade Coverage: Currently only available for K-3, with levels 4 and 5 in development. • Pace and Adaptability: May be slow for advanced learners, and the online platform is not adaptive. • Material Overload: Lots of materials and resources, which can be overwhelming for teachers. • Lack of Differentiation: Weak in differentiated instruction, especially for ELL students and advanced phonics instruction for grades 4-5. • Handwriting: No cursive handwriting component for grades 4-5. • Visual Resources: Decodable books and visual resources look dated and have poor font choices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Availability: Levels 4 and 5 will not be finished and available until the school year 2026-27. • Potential Worth: Despite current limitations, the program seems potentially worth the wait for comprehensive coverage. • Teacher Prep: Could be a heavy lift for teachers to implement due to the amount of prep required. • Supplemental Resources: Questions about whether additional resources for grades 4 and 5 would need to be purchased. • Alignment with Standards: Aligns with new Literacy standards and supports for ELLs. • Professional Learning Opportunities: Presented in many formats, but differentiation for ELL

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Tools: Online resources to monitor student progress. 		<p>students and targeted support for Tiers 1, 2, and 3 is needed.</p>
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Heggerty

Overall, reviewers commented that Heggerty is a systematic, explicit structured literacy program that is easy to implement and strong in phonemic awareness. However, it lacks comprehensive coverage for grades 4-5 and may require significant funding and additional resources for full effectiveness.

Summary of Strengths:	Summary of Weaknesses:	Additional Comments:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials and Resources: Great materials and resources, including hard copies provided in color. • Phonemic Awareness: Strong focus on phonemic awareness, foundational for phonics and reading development. • Ease of Implementation: Lessons are short, daily, and easy to implement with minimal preparation for teachers. • Evidence-Based: The program is evidence-based with a strong focus on developing sound awareness. • Digital Tools: Includes digital tutorials, decodable passages, and access to multi-grade libraries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited Grade Coverage: Only available for K-3, with no program for grades 4-5. • Subscription Costs: Subscriptions need to be renewed yearly, which can vary in price. • Alignment with Standards: Not very aligned with new standards and may require additional purchases. • Scope of Instruction: While strong in phonemic awareness, it doesn't provide full phonics instruction, spelling, or handwriting. • Digital Practice: No student online practice platform, and some components are only digital. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for ELL Students: Questions about the support for ELL students who do not speak English and the success rate for these students. • Pairing with Other Programs: Needs to be used alongside another program for a complete literacy approach. • Yearly Fees: Concerns about yearly fees and the need for continuous resource renewal. • Professional Development: In-person training for all teachers is recommended.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripted Lessons: Scripted lessons with digital resources, remediation, and extension options. • Professional Development: PD available along with coaching/modeling and follow-ups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material Overload: Lots of materials and resources, which can be overwhelming for teachers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cursive Handwriting: No cursive handwriting component for grades 3-5. • Independent Practice: The myHeggerty website could benefit from having an independent student practice piece and online data collection.
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UFLI

Overall, reviewers commented that UFLI is a cost-effective, evidence-based program that is easy to implement and great for K-2. However, it lacks comprehensive coverage for grades 3-5 and may require significant teacher preparation and additional resources for full effectiveness.

Summary of Strengths:	Summary of Weaknesses:	Additional Comments:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost Effective: One manual for K-2, with many free online resources. • Low Prep: Minimal preparation required, with lesson slide decks and free YouTube videos. • Evidence-Based: Strong foundation following the Science of Reading, emphasizing fluency in decoding and encoding. • Digital Resources: Includes digital games, sound wall, heart words, and virtual practice games. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited Grade Coverage: Only available for K-2, with no specific manual or lessons for grades 3-5. • Alignment with Standards: Not aligned with new standards and may require additional resources. • Material Overload: Teachers need to print many resources, which can be time-consuming and intensive. • Lack of Comprehensive Coverage: Does not provide a full scope of phonics instruction, comprehension, or word study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for ELL Students: Questions about explicit support for ELL students who do not speak English. • Supplemental Resource: Best used as a supplemental resource for Tier 2/3 students rather than a comprehensive Tier 1 program. • Professional Development: More support needed for new teachers and upper grades teachers. • Printing Resources: Having to print resources may become problematic,

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ease of Use: Simple and straightforward, easy for novice teachers to follow.• Customizable Resources: Educative implementation videos, customizable resources, and weekly spelling assessments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resource Consistency: Lack of consistent materials across the board, which may affect lesson efficiency.• Teacher Preparation: Significant prep time required, and additional resources like manipulatives need to be purchased.	<p>and the program may seem outdated to some.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Independent Practice: No student reproducible or home practice materials provided.
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