



95 Percent Group Publisher Response to EdReports

95 Phonics Core Program (K-2)

95 Phonics Core Program® (95 PCP®) is an engaging foundational skills curriculum that is based on the most current research about how children learn to read, known as the science of reading. This program utilizes a multi-sensory approach, combining high-quality print materials with manipulatives to create a dynamic learning experience. Efficacy studies, including ESSA Level 1 studies, show that implementing this classroom-ready program supports meaningful and effective literacy progress across grade levels. 95 PCP lessons are intended for Tier 1 core foundational skill instruction. They provide everything an educator needs to teach phonics, including explicitly written instructional dialogue, opportunities for teacher modeling, as well as group and independent practice and purposeful application to help students achieve proficiency at their own pace.

95 Phonics Core Program was carefully designed by educators, for educators, to provide a comprehensive and effective approach to phonics instruction. We are pleased that the EdReports team recognized key elements of intentionality and strength in the program, including:

- Structured instruction focused on phonemic awareness, phonics, and word analysis, which is consistently integrated into every lesson across grade levels.
- Explicit, systematic teaching with clear lesson sequences and cumulative practice, which are crucial for fostering the growth of proficient readers.
- Well-supported syllabication and morpheme analysis, which deepen students' understanding of word structure and contribute to their reading fluency.

In addition to these strengths highlighted by EdReports, it is worth noting that 95 Phonics Core Program has produced outstanding results in over 20 independent efficacy studies, conducted by third-party research teams. These studies provide compelling evidence that the program is highly effective, supporting students of all learning types in diverse classrooms across the country. This reinforces the program's proven ability to drive meaningful literacy outcomes for all learners.

- For more information on our research, visit 95percentgroup.com/efficacy-studies

At 95 Percent Group, we value feedback to continually improve our products and services. EdReports noted some opportunities for potential enhancement in the following areas:

1. Assessment- 95 Phonics Core Program incorporates both formative and summative assessments to track and support student progress, though the final report suggested adding more assessment tools.
 - a. Formative Assessments: These are integrated throughout the program and provide ongoing checkpoints for understanding. Activities like word sorts,

sound matching, and weekly spelling tests allow teachers to monitor progress in real time, offering immediate feedback to adjust instruction as needed.

- b. Summative Assessments: At the end of each unit, these assessments measure mastery of skills such as phonemic awareness and sound-spelling mapping. Tasks like sentence dictation and comprehension questions help teachers evaluate student progress and adjust teaching when necessary.

Additional resources on the One95 Literacy Platform, such as end-of-unit assessments, guides, and documents, assist educators in collecting and using data to inform next steps in instruction.

2. High Frequency Words- 95 Phonics Core Program takes a research-based approach to teaching high-frequency words (HFW) and phonics skills, with a focus on systematic and scaffolded instruction across grades K-2. High-frequency words are selected from the Dolch list, categorized by grade level, and taught using strategies like sound-spelling mapping and the heart word method for irregularly spelled words. Regularly spelled HFW are introduced alongside other words that follow the target phonics patterns.

Instruction progresses from simple to more complex skills:

- Kindergarten focuses on phonological awareness and common syllable patterns.
- First grade introduces additional syllable patterns and high-utility affixes.
- Second grade covers more complex syllable types, affixes, and Latin roots.

To support instruction in irregularly spelled HFW, the program provides a resource with routines like the heart word method, designed for whole-class and small-group settings.

The goal of the program is to promote automaticity in word recognition and deepen understanding of word structures and morphemes through evidence-based teaching methods.

- Please see this recent article from EdWeek about appropriate methods of teaching HFW: [Does Teaching 'Sight Words' Contradict the Science of Reading?](#)

3. Fluency Practice- Oral reading fluency (ORF) is essential for reading proficiency and overall literacy success. 95 Phonics Core Program (PCP) supports ORF development by enhancing phonemic awareness, letter-sound relationships, decoding strategies, and word analysis. Achieving reading proficiency requires direct instruction, consistent practice, and ongoing progress monitoring.

The program offers many structured opportunities for students to practice phonics skills through instructional routines found in the Teacher's Editions and Student Workbooks. These routines help build fluency in letter-sound correspondences and word recognition. Fluency Packs available on the One95 Literacy Platform provide



guidance, fluency passages, and tools for tracking progress. These packs align with phonics skills taught in Grades 1–2, ensuring targeted practice.

Students engage in weekly fluency exercises, including timed and untimed sessions with word tables, phrases, and sentences. They also practice repeated readings of decodable passages, reinforcing both fluency and comprehension.

95 Phonics Core Program is a research-based, teacher-designed solution that equips K-2 students with a robust foundation in phonics, enabling them to become confident and proficient readers. The program's structured approach, integrating phonemic awareness, phonics, syllabication, and morpheme analysis, has been widely recognized for its effectiveness, as evidenced by independent efficacy studies and positive feedback from the EdReports team. While we are proud of the program's proven success, we remain committed to continuous improvement, using valuable feedback from EdReports and educators to enhance the program further. These improvements are updated within the One95 Platform as they become available. We are confident that further enhancements will continue to support teachers and students alike, ensuring that 95 Phonics Core Program remains a powerful tool for achieving lasting literacy success across the country.