

Chart Comparing the What Works Clearinghouse, Florida Center for Reading Research, University of Oregon, and National Center on RTI

To determine if a published review has merit, it is critical to understand the reviewer’s criteria and methods. The following chart compares four consumer guides that review reading products and illustrates key differences in What Works Clearinghouse’s system of evaluating products. **Consider this information before making decisions based on a What Works Clearinghouse review.**

	Criteria/Methods	WWC What Works Clearinghouse Effectiveness Ratings for Beginning Reading Programs	FCRR Florida Center for Reading Research Reports on Supplemental & Intervention Programs	University of Oregon Oregon Reading First Center Curriculum Review	NCRTI National Center on Response to Intervention Reviews of Research Studies
Website Focus & Researchers' Qualifications	Website specializes in reading research and reading instruction	No	Yes	Yes	RTI Expertise
	Key staff and principal investigators have doctorates and/or master’s degrees in reading	2 of 14	13 of 13	12 of 14	RTI Expertise
Evaluation of Specific Reading Programs	Evaluates individual reading programs based on criteria of the National Reading Panel*	No	Yes	Yes	No
	Evaluates program’s alignment with scientifically-based reading research and best practices	No	Yes	Yes	No
	Evaluates program’s instructional design, including scope and sequence, lesson procedures, and placement procedures	No	Yes	Yes	No
	Evaluates the quality of the professional development necessary for effective implementation	No	Yes	Yes	No
Review of Studies Using Specific Reading Programs	When reviewing studies that use a specific reading program, the purpose of the study is considered	No	Yes	NA**	Yes
	Evaluates the statistical model of a study	Yes	Yes	NA**	Yes
	Evaluates whether the assessment measures used in a study align with the instructional goals of the reading strategy being reviewed	No	Yes	NA**	Yes

*Phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension

**The University of Oregon focuses on alignment with scientifically based reading research (SBRR)



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