

May 1, 2024

Dear Educators,

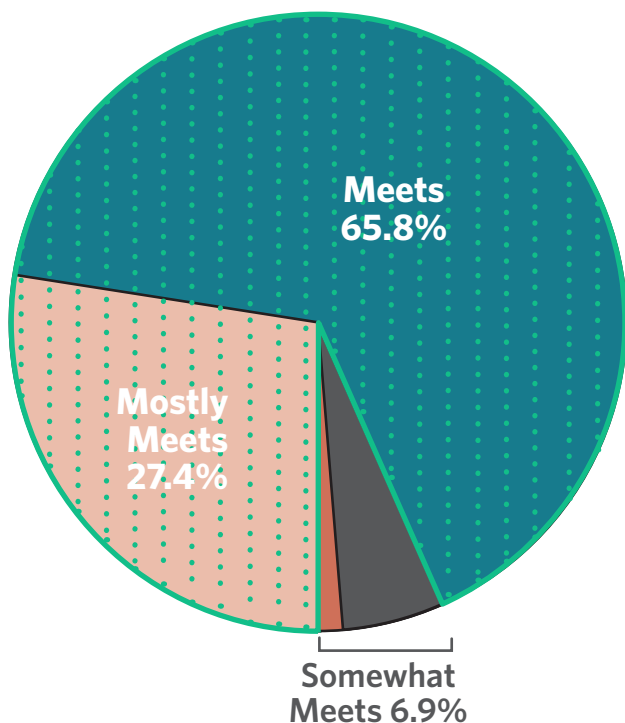
The PAF Reading Program is committed to advancing best practices in reading instruction. PAF appreciates the thoroughness of The Reading League’s process and goals in conducting this review to advance the awareness, understanding, and use of evidence-aligned reading instruction.

In this letter, the PAF Reading Program will present additional context for and clarification of some of the findings in the review to provide a more complete description of the program.

The Review Team’s Findings

PAF “meets” and “mostly meets” most of the criteria in each section for Grades K-2. The Reading League’s review of the PAF Reading Program reflects a thorough understanding of the program as a comprehensive beginning reading program (K-2) that integrates reading, spelling, and handwriting. PAF “meets” and “mostly meets” all the criteria in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, handwriting, spelling, vocabulary, and reading comprehension.

PAF “somewhat meets” a few criteria, mainly pertaining to writing. PAF lays the foundation for teaching expository writing. Capitalization, punctuation, different sentence types, and the use of conjunctions are explicitly taught and practiced in sentence activities related to the reading. Children are asked to write both original sentences and sentences that answer comprehension questions. However, PAF is not a writing program; schools that use PAF seamlessly supplement a writing program into their literacy block.



PAF MEETS OR MOSTLY MEETS 93.2% OF THE GUIDELINES

- Guidelines Rated 1 (Meets)
48 out of 73
- Guidelines Rated 2 (Mostly Meets)
20 out of 73
- Guidelines Rated 3 (Somewhat Meets)
1 out of 73
- Guidelines Rated N/A (Somewhat Meets)
4 out of 73



Other Important Components of PAF

In addition to the PAF materials that were reviewed by The Reading League, important elements of the program that are crucial for successful implementation were not reviewed:

Professional Development: Professional development is an essential component of PAF which includes coursework, ongoing support with a coaching model, and workshops to deepen teachers' understanding of the program. The goal of PAF's professional development is to build teacher knowledge in the science of reading and to explain the rationale for each component of the program. It also ensures effective instruction by teachers and successful reading outcomes for students.

The courses are taught by master teachers with years of experience teaching PAF in both public and independent schools. The comprehensive teacher training and ongoing support can be tailored to the needs of individual schools and districts.

PAF Website: Additional resources are available on the PAF website. Online resources include curriculum-based tests, placement tests, lesson plan forms, homework, and additional reinforcement activities.

In closing, the PAF Reading Program is always striving to incorporate additional instructional practices that are based on the latest research. The PAF team appreciates the valuable feedback from The Reading League and will consider the suggested recommendations.

Sincerely yours,

Magdalena Zavalia

Magdalena Zavalia
PAF Reading Program

What The Reading League's Reviewers Are Saying

Phonemic Awareness

"Blending and segmenting at the phoneme level is the main focus of this program."

Phonics

"Phonics instruction is carefully considered and letter/sound correspondences are taught with great intentionality throughout."

Fluency

"Fluency instruction focuses on students reading aloud with guidance from their teacher."

"Learners receive immediate error correction and feedback."

"The goal is accurate, fluent reading to support comprehension, and this is emphasized throughout the program."

Handwriting

"PAF's handwriting instruction is highly intentional and an integrated part of the curriculum."

Spelling

"Spelling is taught explicitly and follows the scope and sequence of the program."

"Students are taught targeted graphemes explicitly, and instruction of syllable patterns is used to aid in both decoding and encoding."

"Reading and spelling occur in every lesson."

Comprehension

"All instruction is teacher-directed."

"Comprehension questions are tied directly to the storyline/plot."

"Strategies for educator use are embedded within the teacher's guide."

Vocabulary

"Explicit instruction in morphology is included."

"Students learn common roots, prefixes, and suffixes."



In addition to teaching higher level vocabulary in context, PAF also explicitly teaches concepts that will broaden students' vocabulary and improve reading comprehension. These concepts include multiple-meaning words, synonyms and antonyms, figurative language, categorization, and cohesive ties, as well as a morphology strand that begins with the suffix -ing and ends with the introduction of the Greek roots.

Decodable Chapter Books

“PAF’s curriculum includes decodable chapter books that are sequential and build students’ knowledge of phonics over time.”

“The stories featured are substantive and engaging for beginning learners.”



PAF has a coordinated comprehensive reading series: a series of seven chapter books that are beautifully illustrated. They contain coherent and entertaining narratives that have all the basic elements of good storytelling — character, setting, plot, conflict and resolution. All of these elements support instruction in comprehension and reading strategies. Nonfiction selections are included in the series as well.



For more information or questions, contact us at
info@pafprogram.com
www.pafprogram.com

Check out PAF's sister Spanish reading program



www.intelegia.com