



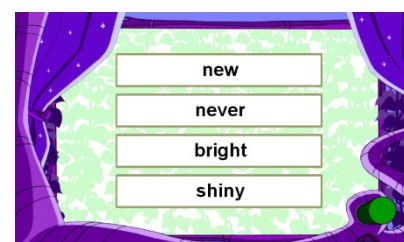
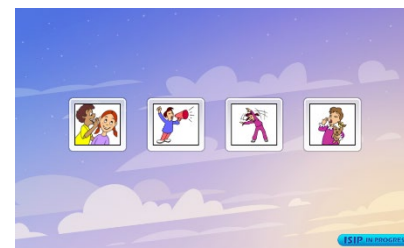
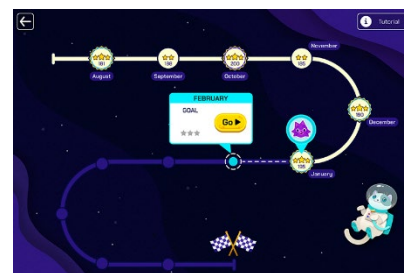
Istation's Response to Texas Resource Review: **Phonics**



Section 1. An Overview of Istation Reading

At Istation we value the Texas Education Agency's thorough and insightful appraisal of our English K-3 phonics reading program. Istation invites educators to read the report by the Texas Resource Review committee as well as the documentation provided within this response for added context and clarification. It is important to note that the review, though extensive, is mainly focused on our print materials, which comprise only a small portion of our available student resources.

Driven by the outcome of Istation's Indicators of Progress (ISIP™) assessments and led by research and frequent skills-based measurements, Istation Reading seamlessly places students into high-interest, interactive online instruction. Designed to supplement classroom instruction, Istation Reading provides students with intervention, additional practice, and extension activities. Engaging instruction is delivered on a customized needs-based path for students in pre-K through eighth grade to ensure that each student's individual needs are met.



Section 2. Instructional Approach

Istation provides materials that include a cohesive, TEKS-aligned scope and sequence that outlines the essential knowledge and skills that are taught throughout the year. The lessons that Istation provides include detailed guidance through each step of the gradual release of responsibility model.

In kindergarten through third grade, the materials provide the following:

- The Scope and Sequence document organized by skill and subskill notes in which cycles the skill or subskill is taught and indicates the progression of foundational literacy.
- The materials follow lessons that move from simple to more complex foundational literacy skills.
- Lessons follow a developmentally appropriate, systematic progression from simple to more complex concepts (e.g., CVC words before CCCVCC words and single syllable words before multisyllabic words).

- Materials include frequent review of phonics skills as well as intentional practice activities throughout the curriculum.
- Decodable texts incorporate cumulative practice by increasing complexity over time. Decodable words are included in the readers from previous lessons in addition to words covering the phonics skill noted for each decodable reader.

Section 3. Content-Specific Skills

As the reviewers mention, the materials provide systematic and direct (explicit) instruction, practice, and review related to alphabetic knowledge and principle. The materials also provide a systematic sequence for introducing oral syllable awareness activities that begins with simple skills and gradually transitions to more complex skills. The review also highlights the following:

- Materials incorporate a variety of activities and resources for students to develop and practice alphabetic knowledge in isolation and in the context of meaningful print.
- The materials include practice with word lists and decodable connected texts in the lessons.
- The materials provide a systematic sequence for introducing grade-level sound-spelling patterns, as outlined in the TEKS.
- Students have opportunities to practice decoding in connected text.
- Materials provide some scripted direct (explicit) instruction for decoding and encoding regular and irregular high-frequency words.

Section 4. Progress Monitoring

Istation's materials include developmentally appropriate diagnostic tools (e.g., formative and summative) and guidance for teachers to measure and monitor student progress. As the reviewers mention:

- The materials include a variety of diagnostic tools that are developmentally appropriate. Materials provide clear, consistent directions for accurate administration of diagnostic tools. Materials include data-management tools for tracking individual and whole-class student progress.
- The materials support teachers' analysis of diagnostic data to inform response to individual students' strengths and needs. Diagnostic tools provide teachers with guidance on how to plan and differentiate instruction based on student data.

Section 5. Supports for All Learners

Through Istation's Indicators of Progress (ISIP™) assessments and the additional materials, Istation supports all learners through:

- guidance, scaffolds, supports, and extensions that maximize student learning potential; and
- engaging students in mastery of the content through developmentally appropriate instructional approaches.

Section 6. Additional Information: Resources

Istation provides guidance on fostering connections between home and school. Istation also incorporates technology into the lessons to enhance student learning. The review highlights the following:

- The materials inform families about the program and provide suggestions for how they can help support student progress and achievement.
- Materials provide specific strategies and activities for families to use at home to support students' learning and development.
- Digital materials support and enhance virtual and in-person instruction.
- Digital materials enhance student learning and are not distracting or chaotic.
- Assessments are aligned in purpose, intended use, and TEKS emphasis.

Upcoming Istation Enhancements

Istation has exciting new content currently slated for release in the fall of 2023 that will include micro-learning, which promotes learner agency by self-assessing where they are before the learning, completing a survey at the end, and providing feedback in real-time.

- Micro-learning lessons are bite-size activities that teach an isolated skill. Each standard is broken down into smaller learning targets that become the basis of a micro-learning lesson.
- Activities are designed with accessibility in mind and are concise and designed to be finished in a single sitting.
- Students get the opportunity for additional instruction throughout their practice through targeted feedback.

Also, Istation will have all-new, next-generation teacher-directed lessons (or TDLs), which are grounded in the latest research-based methodologies to support excellent instruction.

- Teachers can spend less time creating teaching materials for small groups and other teacher-directed instruction. The lessons will make differentiation more seamless by providing the included recommended scaffolds, supports, and extensions.
- Teachers can download, save, edit, and customize lessons to use with their students.
- Lessons include teacher scripts and notes to support teachers in delivering high-quality instruction no matter their experience level.
- Teachers can search for resources by standard codes in Reading, Math, and Lectura.
- Consistent naming conventions make it easy to find relevant lessons quickly.
- Teacher resources will be updated by the end of fall 2023 to better align with current Science of Reading pedagogy and to eliminate previously used guiding principles related to phonics instruction.

From intervention to enrichment, Istation gives students the instruction they need when they need it. Istation reading provides purposeful instruction, layered scaffolding, interactive lessons, explicit and direct instruction, and responsive reteaching.