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McGraw Hill appreciates the opportunity to respond to the TRR Phonics Review Report for *Texas Maravillas*. We are pleased to note the high scores in most areas of the review rubric, including 100% alignment with phonics-related TEKS.

At McGraw Hill, we are dedicated to the application of basic and pedagogical research toward the development of products designed to improve student and educator outcomes. As such, we have drawn upon decades of rigorous literacy research, as well as our collaborative work with preeminent reading researchers and experts, to inform the design, development, and ongoing efficacy testing of our literacy solutions. We recognize that equitable literacy education provides learners with the instruction they need, when they need it, while also providing a robust learning experience that addresses each of the skills and competencies identified as critical for successful literacy development. McGraw Hill continuously updates the program to include the latest research findings about the most effective ways to teach children to read and write.

In order to meet the specific needs of learning literacy in Spanish language, *Texas Maravillas* provides explicit, systematic instruction sequences for foundational skills such as phonological awareness, phonics, structural analysis, high-frequency words, spelling, and fluency. Foundational skills instruction is built on standardized routines, assessment-driven instruction, multimodal learning, and inclusion of both whole- and small-group instruction for students at all levels. Each routine is outlined in the Instructional Routines Handbook, which also provides the supporting research for each routine, and guides teachers on how to measure success. The systematic predictability of *Texas Maravillas* foundational skills lessons allows children to focus on content instead of process, while the explicitness presents content in a clear, concise manner.

Texas Maravillas phonics instruction progresses from simple to more complex sound-spellings, providing support and scaffolding as new sound-spellings are introduced, relating new knowledge to that which is already known. Lessons focus on helping readers understand the relationship between letters and sounds. Foundational skills instruction in *Texas Maravillas* is tailored to the best practices in teaching the Spanish language. *Texas Maravillas* phonics routines help enhance children's decoding skills by using their phonological awareness of the syllable as a component of the language. This way, in each lesson, students will start by identifying the correspondence between a sound and a letter, then immediately blend the sound with a vowel to build a syllable. Then, they will build words using the syllables. Last, children will be able to read words fluently. Students then have opportunities to reinforce and apply their phonetic knowledge in context via *Lectura compartida* selections in the *Mi libro de lectura y escritura* at Grades K–1, *Libros descodificables* at Grades K–2, and the *Cuentos para llevar a casa* in the Grades K–1 *Cuaderno de práctica* blackline masters. *Pasajes descodificables* are also available for all grades.

Texas Maravillas spelling instruction is aligned to phonics instruction, emphasizing the relationship between decoding and encoding letter-sound correlations. Spelling instruction supports a deeper understanding of letter-sound correlations and improves decoding and spelling skills “There is a direct connection between oral and written language. In alphabetic systems



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such as Spanish, literacy learning requires being aware that the graphic signs correspond to sound segments without meaning.” (Gutiérrez Fresneda, 2017) Spelling skills are taught weekly and practiced in the Cuaderno de práctica blackline masters. Spelling instruction in Grades 1–2 is supported with research-based practice using word sorts that provide meaningful, hands-on activities for students to see Phonics/Spelling patterns.

Advanced phonics instruction, including structural analysis and morphology, supports decoding and spelling of multisyllable words. Like phonics instruction, weekly structural analysis instruction at Grades 1 and 2 is explicit and systematic, focusing on high-utility word constructs. After the structural analysis skill is introduced, it is reviewed and reinforced throughout the week.

The science of reading helps us to understand which instructional practices are most likely to result in proficient reading. The quality of instructional materials assists teachers in applying those best practices in the classroom. We believe *Texas Maravillas* provides quality instruction in all aspects of reading instruction that is consistently based on and in accord with the science of reading.