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McGraw Hill appreciates the opportunity to respond to the TRR Phonics Review Report for *Texas Wonders*. 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 includes the latest research findings about the most effective ways to teach children to read and write.

Texas Wonders provides explicit and systematic instruction in foundational skills, including phonological/phonemic awareness, phonics, spelling, structural analysis, high-frequency words, 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 Wonders* foundational skills lessons allows children to focus on content instead of process, while the explicitness presents content in a clear, concise manner.

Texas Wonders 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. Blending, decoding, and word-building are instructional priorities, as they are foundational and necessary skills that allow students to become proficient readers and writers. Students then have opportunities to reinforce and apply their phonetic knowledge in context via Shared Read selections in the Reading/Writing Companion at Grades K–1, Decodable Readers at Grades K–2, and the Take-Home Stories in the Grades K–1 Practice Book blackline masters. Decodable Passages are also available for all grades.

Texas Wonders 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 (Graham et al., 2002; Graham & Santangelo, 2014; Snow et al., 1998). Spelling skills are taught weekly and practiced in the Practice Book blackline

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masters. Spelling instruction in Grades 1–2 is supported with research-based practice using Word Sorts. Word Sorts 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 (Carnine et al., 2010; Castles et al., 2018; Vaughn et al., 2022). 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.

Starting at Grade 3, more emphasis is placed on reading multisyllabic words using advanced phonics topics—morphology and structural analysis. While attention is still paid to the sounds in words, students are guided to look more closely at syllable types and word parts such as prefixes, suffixes, base words, and Greek and Latin roots, and to use other structural analysis strategies to decode multisyllabic words.

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 *Wonders* provides quality instruction in all aspects of reading instruction that is consistently based on and in accord with the science of reading.