

Special Education Literacy Intervention Matrix

Grades 4–8 Research Synthesis & Fidelity Cost Analysis (MN READ Act / OL&LA Aligned)

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Focus: Tier 3 Special Education

Executive Framework: While General Education (Tier 1) literacy in grades 4–8 shifts toward literary analysis and content comprehension, Special Education (Tier 3) requires diagnostic, mastery-based instruction to repair foundational word recognition and executive deficits. Because district core educators are undergoing **OL&LA (Online Language & Literacy Academy)** training under the **MN READ Act**, selecting a special education curriculum rooted in Structured Literacy ensures seamless instructional alignment across tiers.

Approach & Programs	Instructional Pros	Instructional Cons	Fidelity & Resource Costs
ORTON-GILLINGHAM (OG) Wilson Reading System (WRS), Just Words, SPIRE <i>Target: Severe decoding/encoding deficits & dyslexia.</i>	- Gold-standard empirical backing for phonemic and orthographic mastery. - Clinical, mature visual presentation avoids juvenile styling for grades 4–8. - Directly mirrors OL&LA diagnostic and systematic decoding frameworks.	- Heavy reliance on memorizing syllable types and complex spelling rules. - Deliberate, mastery-based pacing can feel rigid and slow for older learners. - Narrow focus on word-level mechanics over broad text comprehension.	Intensive PD & Practicum: WRS Level 1 certification requires ~90 hours + supervised practicum (\$2,500+/teacher). Master Schedule: Requires 45–60 min daily blocks in small homogeneous groups (1:6).
MORPHOLOGICAL REWARDS, Word Journeys <i>Target: Students with basic phonics who struggle with multisyllabic words.</i>	- High-impact, short-term intervention (12–20 weeks) that accelerates fluency. - Targets prefixes, suffixes, and roots directly transferable to Science/Social Studies. - Builds rapid confidence and reading rate in intermediate/middle schoolers.	- Assumes mastery of basic single-syllable phonics and short vowel sounds. - Ineffective as a standalone curriculum for complete non-readers. - Requires supplemental comprehension instruction once word attack concludes.	Consumable Workbooks: Annual per-student replacement costs for student guides. Low Training Overhead: 1–2 day implementation workshops; highly cost-effective startup.
DIRECT INSTRUCTION (DI) Corrective Reading, Reading Mastery <i>Target: Significant decoding or fluency delays needing rapid catch-up.</i>	- Engineered, fast-paced scripts and choral responses maximize student attention. - Minimizes student cognitive load through predictable, high-repetition routines. - Strong NCII ratings for measurable gains in decoding accuracy and rate.	- Rigid verbal scripting and hand signals can limit teacher autonomy and buy-in. - Lacks multisensory scaffolding and deep linguistic rule explanation. - Requires strict behavioral compliance during rapid-fire group signaling.	Strict Placement Grouping: Requires diagnostic testing and cross-grade grouping by exact skill level. Implementation Coaching: Requires ongoing classroom observation to maintain pacing fidelity.
SPEECH-TO-PRINT EBLI, Phono-Graphix <i>Target: Older struggling readers needing accelerated linguistic phonics.</i>	- Starts from spoken sounds to print spellings, bypassing heavy rule memorization. - Accelerates older students into grade-level multisyllabic text rapidly. - Integrates reading, handwriting, and spelling within unified lessons.	- Requires significant paradigm shift for staff already trained in traditional print-to-speech OG. - Smaller pool of already-certified special education applicants when hiring.	High Upfront Licensure: EBLI training is intensive and costly (\$2,000–\$3,500 per teacher). Substitute Coverage: Requires multi-day release time or summer stipends for initial training.
BLENDED & STRATEGY LANGUAGE! Live, SRSD Writing	LANGUAGE! Live pairs personalized foundational software with teacher-led text analysis.	- Blended models risk screen fatigue or off-task behavior during digital rotations. - SRSD does not remediate	Annual SaaS Subscriptions: Recurring per-seat software licenses + hardware/headsets.