

Appendix C

The following tables represent the strengths and weaknesses of Core Reading Programs as described during interviews at each *Reading First* school visited in spring 2007. The number in the box represents the number of schools responding in each category.

Core Reading Program: <i>Harcourt</i>—Eight Schools							
Strengths				Weaknesses			
5 Components	#	Other	#	5 Components	#	Other	
Phonemic awareness	3	Leveled readers	3	Phonemic awareness	1	Not enough non-fiction	3
Fluency	0	Decodable books	2	Fluency	1	Too repetitious/boring	3
Vocabulary	3	Focus skills	2	Vocabulary	3	Big books lack variety	2
Comprehension	3	Well-organized	2	Comprehension	2		
Phonics	3	Sequential	2	Phonics	3		
		Thematic units/ individualized	2				

Core Reading Program: <i>Reading Mastery Plus</i>—One School							
Strengths				Weaknesses			
5 Components	#	Other	#	5 Components	#	Other	
Phonemic awareness	0	Language component for whole group	1	Phonemic awareness	0	Higher level questioning weak	1
Fluency	0	Repetition	1	Fluency	0	Program does not carry over to other area	1
Vocabulary	- 0	Building skills	1	Vocabulary	0	Isolated instruction	1
Comprehension	1	Consistency	1	Comprehension	0	Lack of emphasis on punctuation	1
Phonics	1	Incorporates science and geography	1	Phonics	0	Needs more stories	1
		Visibly successful	1			Needs more supplementary materials	1
						Needs sight words in stories	1

Core Reading Program: <i>Voyager</i>—One School							
Strengths				Weaknesses			
5 Components	#	Other	#	5 Components	#	Other	
Phonemic awareness	1	Lays out reading block	1	Phonemic awareness	0	To few materials/ activities for centers	1
Fluency	0	Built around centers	1	Fluency	0	Weak teaching different ability levels in small group	1
Vocabulary	0	Flexible	1	Vocabulary	0		
Comprehension	0	Interventions	1	Comprehension	0		
Phonics	0			Phonics	0		

Core Reading Program: SFA—One School							
Strengths				Weaknesses			
5 Components	#	Other	#	5 Components	#	Other	#
Phonemic awareness	0	Stories/books balance exposition and fiction	1	Phonemic awareness	0	N/A	
Fluency	0	Scope of skills	1	Fluency	0		
Vocabulary	0	Sequence of skills	1	Vocabulary	0		
Comprehension	0	Full of best practices	1	Comprehension	0		
Phonics	0	Structure/organization	1	Phonics	0		
		Professional development	1				
		Cooperative and peer learning	1				

Core Reading Program: Houghton Mifflin—Eleven Schools							
Strengths				Weaknesses			
5 Components	#	Other	#	5 Components	#	Other	#
Phonemic awareness	1	Easy to follow and plan	7	Phonemic awareness	1	Stories/books uninteresting	3
Fluency	0	Students like high interest stories	6	Fluency	1	Does not connect to FCRR activities, SSS	2
Vocabulary	1	Structure/organization	5	Vocabulary	1	Materials overwhelming in volume/number	2 3
Comprehension	1	Spirals/revisits lessons	4	Comprehension	2	Too many skills to cover/pacing	2
Phonics	2	Materials geared to different levels	3	Phonics	3		

Core Reading Program: Scott Foresman with Links—Three Schools							
Strengths				Weaknesses			
5 Components	#	Other	#	5 Components	#	Other	#
Phonemic awareness	0	Lesson schedule/plan with details	2	Phonemic awareness	0	Weak sight word introduction	1
Fluency	0	Structure/organization	1	Fluency	0	Stories too easy	1
Vocabulary	0	Practice workbooks	1	Vocabulary	1	Needs more non-fiction texts	1
Comprehension	0	Materials	1	Comprehension	1	Unit tests require too much reading	1
Phonics	0	Skills lessons before story	1	Phonics	0	CRP levels/standards lower than SSS	1
		Leveled readers	1			Lack of resources	1
		Interesting stories	1				
		Includes writing	1				
		Lessons/help for ELLs	1				