Kid Scoop News
THE MORE KIDS READ, THE MORE THEY SUCCEED!

Comparison of Literacy Programs

A comprehensive review and comparison of literacy programs was compiled from literacy program results available, teacher forums, and broader literacy research. Outcomes of the comparison are presented in several practical perspectives, including:

1. School Principal Considerations
2. Real-world, Practical Implementation
3. Best Program based on School Goals
4. Best Program based on School Type

1. School Principal Considerations:

Program	Primary Purpose	Science of Reading Alignment	Family Engagement	Student Motivation	Data & Assessment Strength	Best Grade Span	Typical Cost	Best Fit Schools
Kid Scoop News	Reading engagement and literacy exposure	Moderate-Strong	Excellent	Very High	Low	K-6	Low	Title I, rural, multilingual, community-focused schools
Scholastic News	Nonfiction/current-events literacy	Moderate	Moderate	High	Moderate	K-6	Low	Traditional elementary classrooms
Newsela	Differentiated informational reading	Moderate	Low	Moderate	High	2-12	Medium-High	Schools emphasizing differentiation and data
ReadWorks	Reading comprehension practice	Strong	Low	Moderate	Moderate	K-8	Free	Budget-conscious districts
CommonLit	Text analysis and comprehension	Strong	Low	Moderate	Moderate	5-12	Free/Freemium	Upper elementary and middle schools
Lexia Core5	Structured literacy intervention	Very Strong	Low	Moderate	Very High	K-5	High	Intervention-focused schools
i-Ready Literacy	Diagnostic/intervention system	Strong	Low	Moderate	Very High	K-8	High	Data-driven MTSS schools
K-3 Proficiency Project	Weekly in-class literacy coach, instructional aides, adaptive literacy software	Strong	Low	Moderate	High	K-8	High	Intervention-focused, data-driven schools

Program	Primary Purpose	Science of Reading Alignment	Family Engagement	Student Motivation	Data & Assessment Strength	Best Grade Span	Typical Cost	Best Fit Schools
Read On!	Renaissance Accelerated Reader licensing, Student incentives, prizes	Moderate	Low	Moderate	High	K-8	High	Intervention-focused, utilize non- school staff

2. Real-world, Practical Implementation

Program	Teacher Workload	Student Engagement	Family Engagement	Data/Assessment
Kid Scoop News	Low	Very high	Excellent	Low
Scholastic News	Low-moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate
Newsela	Moderate-high	Moderate-high	Low	High
ReadWorks	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Moderate
Lexia	High setup	Moderate	Low	Very high

3. Best Program based on School Goals

If your goal is “make kids WANT to read”

Best options:

1. Kid Scoop News
2. Scholastic News
3. Time for Kids

Kid Scoop News is especially strong for:

- reluctant readers
- Title I schools
- bilingual family engagement
- home-school literacy connections
- print-based reading stamina

Teachers consistently describe it as highly engaging and “fun.”

A major advantage:

- students physically take copies home
- many schools report it may be the only reading material some children own.

If your goal is differentiated reading levels

Best option:

1. Newsela

Newsela's biggest advantage is:

- the same article can instantly adjust across multiple Lexile levels.

That makes it excellent for:

- mixed-grade classrooms
- SPED inclusion
- intervention groups
- multilingual learners

But educators increasingly complain about:

- rising costs
- features moving behind paywalls.

If your goal is classroom-ready nonfiction instruction

Best option:

1. Scholastic News

Teachers often describe Scholastic News as:

- more cohesive instructionally
- better tied to standards/themes
- easier for weekly classroom integration than Time for Kids.

Strengths:

- vocabulary work
- quizzes
- current events
- social studies integration
- online differentiation tools

If your goal is free literacy support

Best options:

- ReadWorks
- CommonLit

These are excellent academically but:

- less exciting visually
- less “kid magazine” energy
- less family engagement

They work best as:

- teacher-assigned instructional tools
- not motivational reading programs.

4. Best Program based on School Type

Small elementary school with limited budget

Best fit:

- Kid Scoop News
- plus ReadWorks or CommonLit

Lowest cost, highest engagement.

Title I elementary school

Best fit:

- Kid Scoop News + Lexia/Core phonics intervention

Why:

- motivation + intervention together works better than intervention alone.

District focused on test scores and differentiation

Best fit:

- Newsela
- or Newsela + i-Ready/Lexia

Most data-rich option.

Schools focused on community literacy and family reading

Best fit:

- Kid Scoop News

It is unusually strong in:

- bilingual family materials
- take-home reading
- parent engagement programming.

Cost Comparison (Typical Elementary School)

Program	Approximate Annual School Cost
Kid Scoop News	$600–$6k
Scholastic News	$2k–$8k
Time for Kids	$2k–$6k
Newsela	$6k–$20k+
ReadWorks	Free
CommonLit	Free core
Lexia	$15k–$60k+
K-3 Proficiency Project	$80,000-$250,000
Read On, Sonoma!	$10,000-$60,000

What many schools actually do

The strongest literacy implementations usually combine:

- a **motivational reading platform**
  - Kid Scoop News
  - Scholastic News
  - Time for Kids

with:

- a **structured intervention/data platform**
  - Lexia
  - i-Ready
  - Amplify
  - mCLASS

That combination tends to outperform “skills software only” approaches because students actually read more voluntarily.