

## Request for Funding Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – ARRA

**Identified Need** (must attach any and all data used to determine need): Students that are struggling with reading often know and understand their plight. As children mature, they also understand that their “just right books” are below the level of others in their class. This issue is compounded when students are engaged in a non-fiction study in science or social studies or in various reading genres. Research shows that children need to be instructed in text that is at an appropriate level. Research also shows that children are acutely aware of their short comings which can affect their self esteem and creates a less than favorable experience in school. This applies to children with learning disabilities and dyslexia, and those that are not reading on grade level or are struggling for any reason.

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**Proposal** (must include any and all costs): The purchase of eleven (11) genre workshop sets, in levels J/K – N/P includes 264 leveled texts (6 copies each of 44 titles), 22 teacher’s guides (1 per title pair), 44 comprehension question cards (1 per set) and a genre workshop professional development book. Each set costs \$1,725.00 with a grand total of 18,975.00 for eleven schools. (A quantity discount has not been applied by the vendor, Benchmark Education) If this order is processed prior to July 2010, each set ordered will receive an additional \$300.00 in leveled reading materials that will enhance the current guided reading collection at each school.

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**Measurable Goal** (Must be a SMART goal: Specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely) and must be directly related to improved achievement for children with disabilities: \_\_\_\_\_

The goals related to this request are:

- To improve the reading level of each student by one level (e.g. J to K)utilizing these materials in a 6 week time line
  - To increase comprehension of a given subject matter related to the text as measured by the comprehension question cards (pre and post test)
  - To support general and IEP reading goals and monitor progress utilizing running records/probes
  - To monitor and enhance student reading attitudes and outlooks by removing stigmatizing text, Monitor with reading surveys
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What will be used to measure the impact of this initiative on achievement for children with disabilities (please include the method for and frequency of progress monitoring):

Comprehension cards

Running records

Probes

Reading surveys

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Submitted by: Eileen O. Roxbee on behalf of the elementary school principals

School: Burr, Dwight, Holland Hill, Jennings,

Mill Hill, North Stratfield, Osborn Hill, Riverfield, Sherman, Stratfield

Date: October 29, 2009

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Approved for funding under ARRA: \_\_\_\_\_ More information Needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved for funding OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_ Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Request Denied: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized by: 

Date: 11/17/09

## II. BENCHMARK EDUCATION LITERACY RESEARCH STUDY

*Tyler Independent School District, Tyler, Texas*

*November 2005 – April 2006*

*Conducted by Main Street Academix, Inc.*

*W.K. Preble, Ed. D.*

*Katherine Knowles, M.Ed.*

*John Hintze, Ph.D.*

### NCLB—Scientifically Based Research

The NCLB Act states that all schools should be using instructional programs that have been proven effective in the classroom by scientific research. To that end, Benchmark Education Company (BEC) took part in a scientifically based research study, from November 2005 through April 2006, designed to meet or exceed the standards of the U.S. Department of Education's *What Works Clearinghouse* (WWC)\*.

### The Tyler (TX) ISD Research Study

The study was conducted in the Tyler, TX, ISD by an independent, university-based research company, Main Street Academix, Inc., which designed the study, selected the experimental and control schools, administered the pretests and posttests, and compiled the results. Benchmark Education saw Tyler as a good site for the study due to the diverse demographic makeup of its student body. Three Tyler elementary schools introduced Benchmark Education programs into their literacy programs, while three schools demographically paired to the first schools used literacy programs from other publishers.

### Benchmark Education Programs in the Study

The schools participating in the study used these BEC programs with on-site training:

- K–5 BookRoom leveled texts and comprehension cards
- Comprehension Strategy Posters with leveled texts
- Phonics Skill Bags
- Reader's Theater for Fluency and Comprehension
- Fluency Kits for Independent Practice
- Spanish versions of the above, plus Big Books

\* The WWC was established in 2002 by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES) to provide educators, policymakers, researchers, and the public with a central and trusted source of scientific evidence of what works in education.

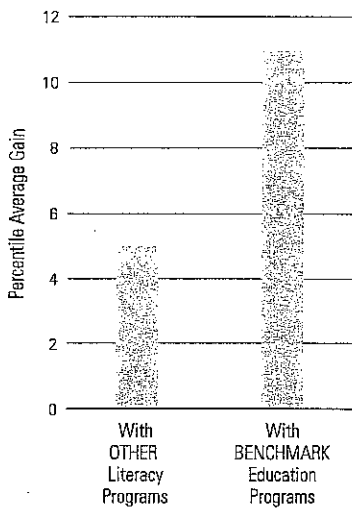
## Assessment Measures

This rigorous independent study indicates that the Benchmark Education program has been proven effective in helping students from Tyler, Texas, improve their Reading Comprehension, Reading Fluency, and Total Reading as measured on the following standardized and Texas state tests:

- Stanford Reading First — Grades 1, 3
- Stanford Reading Assessment 10 — Grade 5
- Reading-Curriculum Based measurement (R-CBM) — Fluency
- Aprenda™ 3 — Spanish
- Texas TAKS State Reading Test — Grade 3

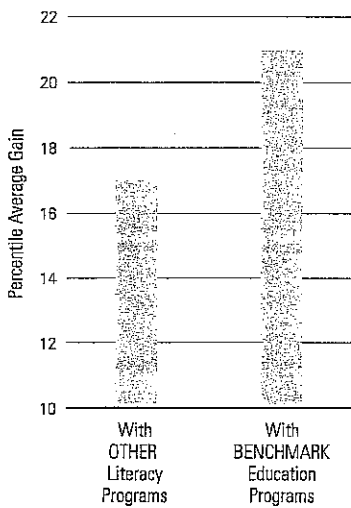
**RESULTS from Tyler, Texas, Research Study (English) — HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Grade 1  
Average Total Reading Gains**



Grade 1 students in schools using Benchmark Education programs gained 11 percentile points on their Total Reading scores vs. only 5 percentile points gained by students in control schools using other literacy programs.

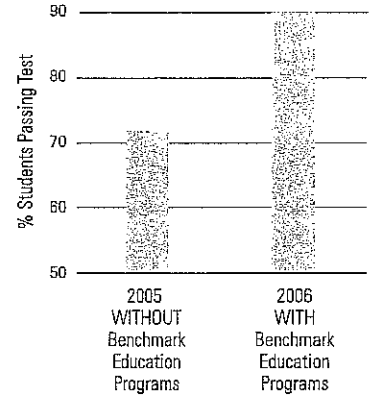
**Grade 3  
Average Total Reading Gains**



Grade 3 students in schools using Benchmark Education programs gained 21 percentile points on their Total Reading scores vs. only 17 percentile points gained by students in control schools using other literacy programs.

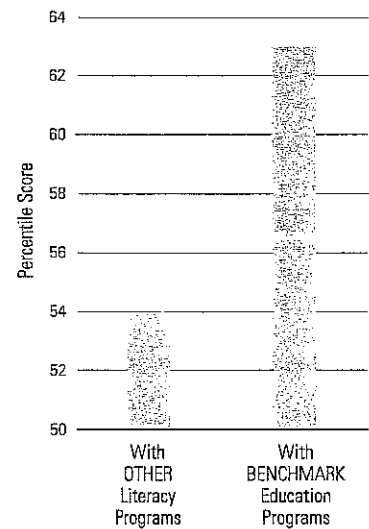
90% of Grade 3 ELL/ESL students in Tyler, TX, using Benchmark Education literacy programs in 2006 passed the Texas TAKS state reading test vs. only 72% in 2005 using other programs in the same schools.

**Grade 3 Pass Rate  
Texas TAKS State Reading Test**



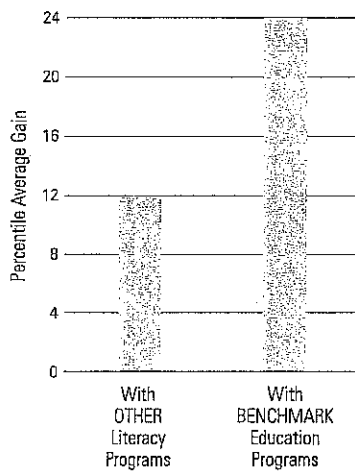
Grade 5 Students in Benchmark Education schools achieved 63rd percentile scores at year's end in Reading Comprehension vs. control school students who averaged only 54th percentile scores.

**Grade 5  
Average Reading Comprehension  
Posttest Score**



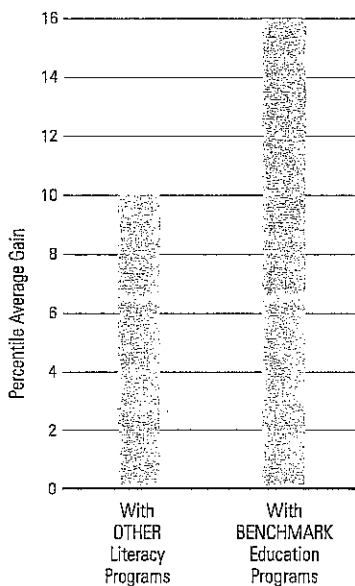
## Results from Tyler, Texas, RESEARCH STUDY (Spanish) — Highlights:

### Grade 1 Spanish Average Total Reading Gains



Grade 1 Spanish-instruction students in Benchmark Education schools gained 24 percentile points on their Total Reading scores vs. only 12 percentile points gained by students in control schools using other literacy programs.

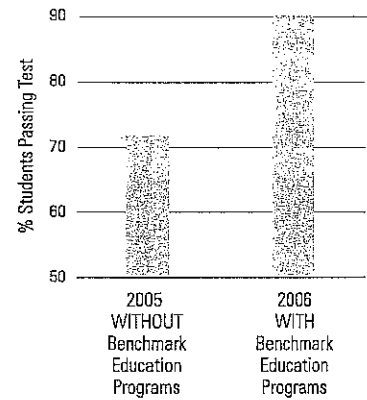
### Grade 3 Spanish Average Reading Comprehension Gains



Grade 3 Spanish-instruction students in Benchmark Education schools gained 16 percentile points on their Reading Comprehension scores vs. only 10 percentile points gained by students in control schools using other literacy programs.

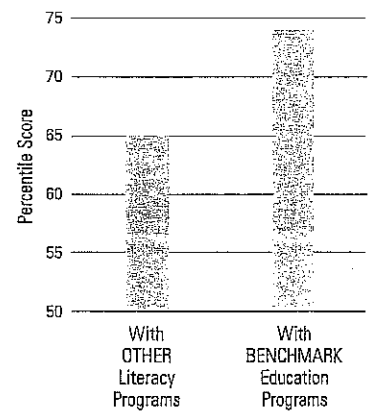
90% of Grade 3 ELL/ESL students in Tyler, TX, using Benchmark Education literacy programs in 2006 passed the Texas TAKS state reading test vs. only 72% in 2005 using other literacy programs in the same schools.

**Grade 3 Pass Rate  
Texas TAKS State Reading Test**



Grade 5 Spanish-instruction students in Benchmark Education schools achieved 74th percentile scores at year's end in Reading Comprehension vs. control school students who averaged only 65th percentile scores.

**Grade 5 Spanish  
Average Reading Comprehension  
Posttest Score**





**Nonfiction**

**Book Reviews**



UH-Y04637  
Level K/20

UH-Y04615 Level O/34



UH-Y04636  
Level J/18

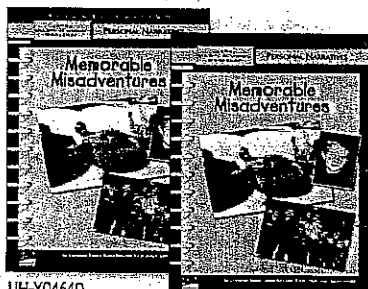
UH-Y04614 Level P/38

**Personal Narratives**



UH-Y04641  
Level J/18

UH-Y04619 Level O/34



UH-Y04640  
Level J/18

UH-Y04618 Level P/38

**Persuasive Letters**



UH-Y04635  
Level J/18

UH-Y04613 Level N/30



UH-Y04634  
Level K/20

UH-Y04612 Level N/30

**Biography**



UH-Y04638  
Level K/20

UH-Y04616 Level O/34



UH-Y04639  
Level K/20

UH-Y04617 Level P/38

**Fiction**

**Fables**



UH-Y04620  
Level J/18

UH-Y04598 Level N/30

**Fairy Tales**



UH-Y04623  
Level J/18

UH-Y04601 Level O/34

**Historical Fiction**



UH-Y04631  
Level K/20

UH-Y04609 Level O/34

**Pourquoi Tales**

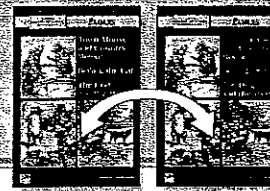


UH-Y04624  
Level K/20

UH-Y04602 Level N/30

Identical texts at 2 reading levels  
make differentiated instruction easy!

Grades  
**3+**



1-2 grades  
below

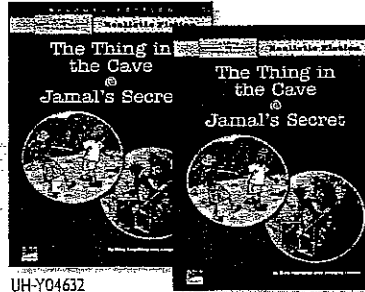
On grade

### Realistic Fiction



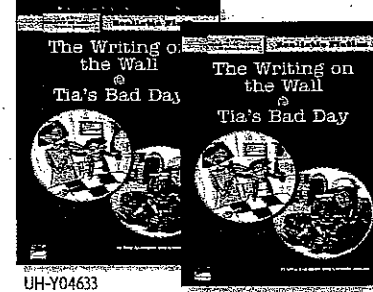
UH-Y04621  
Level K/20

UH-Y04599 Level P/38



UH-Y04632  
Level J/18

UH-Y04610 Level N/30



UH-Y04633  
Level J/18

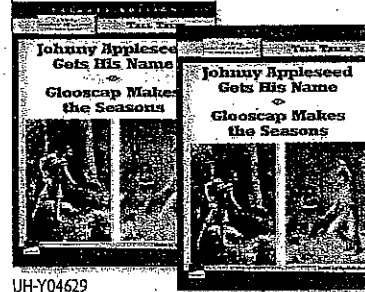
UH-Y04611 Level N/30

### Tall Tales



UH-Y04622  
Level J/18

UH-Y04600 Level P/38



UH-Y04629  
Level K/20

UH-Y04607 Level O/34



UH-Y04628  
Level K/20

UH-Y04606 Level P/38

### Trickster Tales



UH-Y04630  
Level K/20

UH-Y04608 Level P/38



UH-Y04627  
Level K/20

UH-Y04605 Level N/30



UH-Y04626  
Level K/20

UH-Y04604 Level P/38



UH-Y04625  
Level J/18

UH-Y04603 Level O/34

#### COMPLETE GENRE WORKSHOP SET for Levels J-K/N-P

- 264 Leveled Texts (6 copies each of 44 titles)
- 22 Teacher's Guides (1 per title pair)
- 44 Comprehension Question Cards (1 per title)
- Genre Workshop Professional Development Book

**SAVE \$240**

- UH-Y03506 ~~\$1,965~~ **\$1,725**
- Individual 6-Packs**  
(see code below each title)
- 6 Leveled Texts
  - Teacher's Guide
  - Comprehension Question Card **\$43**

**Single-Copy Set J-K** **Single-Copy Set N-P**  
UH-Y03509 **\$149** UH-Y03510 **\$149**

#### Genre Workshop Set for Levels J-K

- 132 Leveled Texts (6 copies each of 22 titles)
- 11 Teacher's Guides (1 per title pair)
- 22 Comprehension Question Cards (1 per title)
- Genre Workshop Professional Development Book

**SAVE \$82**

#### Genre Workshop Set for Levels N-P

- 132 Leveled Texts (6 copies each of 22 titles)
- 11 Teacher's Guides (1 per title pair)
- 22 Comprehension Question Cards (1 per title)
- Genre Workshop Professional Development Book

**SAVE \$82**

UH-Y03507 ~~\$1,007~~ **\$925**

Call 1-877-236-2465 • Fax 1-877-732-8273

# Order Form



BENCHMARK EDUCATION COMPANY

DEPT: 4401

250 West Nyack Road  
West Nyack, NY 10994

JENNIFER ALKMAN  
OR LITERACY COORDINATOR  
ROGER SHERMAN SCHL  
250 FERN ST  
FAIRFIELD CT 06824-6899

SHIPPING ADDRESS: (please correct or complete)

Name

Title

BILLING ADDRESS: (if different)

Name (Mr., Mrs., Ms.)

Title (Specify Grade Level)

School/District/Agency

Address

City

State/Province

Zip/Postal Code

Phone

E-mail

## PAYMENT METHOD

Purchase Order No. (must be attached)

Check No.

MasterCard

VISA

AMEX

DISCOVER

## HOW TO ORDER

MAIL: Use complete address above

PHONE: Toll-Free 1-877-236-2465 • FAX: 1-877-732-8273

WEB SITE: [www.benchmarkeducation.com](http://www.benchmarkeducation.com)

E-MAIL: [neworders@benchmarkeducation.com](mailto:neworders@benchmarkeducation.com)

### School Orders

- School orders are accepted three ways:
- Authorized written purchase order
- Benchmark Education Company Order Form with payment
- Order written on letterhead stationery and signed by the principal

### Prepaid Orders

- Prepaid orders must include payment by check or credit card (VISA/MasterCard/Amex).
- Call for credit card processing fees on orders over \$5,000.00.
- Credit card orders must include card number, signature, and expiration date.

### Satisfaction Guaranteed - Returns

- Contact our Customer Service Department at 1-877-BENCHMARK (236-2465)
- Materials in resalable condition will be accepted for return within the first 90 days after receipt.

Call for the name of your local sales representative.

# 100% Satisfaction Guarantee

Your satisfaction is of the utmost importance to us. If you make a purchase from us and are not completely satisfied, simply return the item(s) to us in resalable condition within 90 days of receipt, and we will gladly refund your money.

## The Gradient of Text Difficulty

At Benchmark Education Company, we recognize that any gradient is fallible because a book's level of difficulty may vary among districts and schools. From student to student. We recommend that teachers make careful decisions selecting leveled texts for students. Consider the student's current literacy behaviors and their prior knowledge of the content being presented. Please note that the grade levels assigned to levels and number levels on this chart are not ideal expectations only. Students' reading levels may vary more widely.

Authorized Signature

Please Print Name on Card

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date

Unit/Title/Description

Quantity

Price

Total

Shipping & handling charges for the contiguous 48 states: (\$5.00 minimum per order)  
Add 10% of subtotal to all orders.

- 20% shipping and handling charges for all orders delivered outside the contiguous 48 states.
- All shipments are sent FOB West Nyack, NY.
- Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery of out-of-stock items.
- Express Delivery: Second Day or Next Day deliveries will include a surcharge.

\*SALES TAX: Residents of CA, WA, NY, and Canada, please add applicable sales tax.  
Tax ID Number: 13-3996703

## CONVERSION GUIDE FOR LEVELED TEXT

DEVELOPMENTAL CATEGORY	GRADE LEVEL	LETTER LEVEL
EMERGENT	K	A
		B
		C
		D
		E
EMERGENT/EARLY	K/1	F
		G
		H
		I
		L
EARLY	1	M
		N
		O
		P
		Q
EARLY/FLUENT	2	R
		S
		T
		U
		V
FLUENT	3	W
		X
		Y
		Z
		Z+
FLUENT	4	6
		6
		6
		6
		6
FLUENT	5	7
		7
		7
		7
		7
FLUENT	6	8
		8
		8
		8
		8
ADVANCED FLUENT	7	8
		8
		8
		8
		8
ADVANCED FLUENT	8+	9
		9
		9
		9
		9

# FREE! Choose ANY \$300 in products from this catalog with any \$500 purchase!

\*or from [www.benchmarkeducation.com](http://www.benchmarkeducation.com)

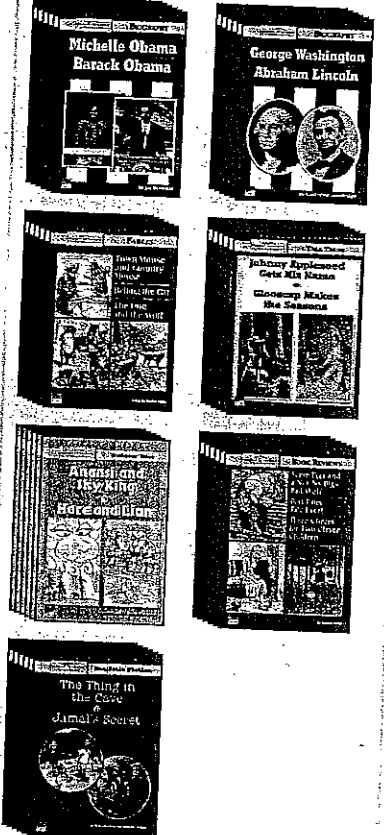
## Example 1

8 Early and Early/Fluent Leveled Text 6-Packs



## Example 2

7 Readers' & Writers' Genre Workshop 6-Packs



## Example 3

3 Reader's Theater: Nursery Rhymes and Songs Big Book Sets



**CHOOSE ANY \$300 IN PRODUCTS YOURS FREE** with any order of \$500 or more

Offer expires on July 31, 2010.  
One offer per building.  
Cannot be combined with other offers.

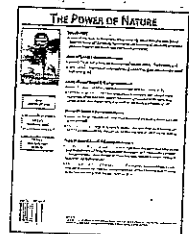
**IMPORTANT:**  
To receive your FREE products, you must put the department number from the order form or back cover next to each FREE product on your P.O.

NOTE: The above are examples only. You can choose any products in the catalog or from [www.benchmarkeducation.com](http://www.benchmarkeducation.com) for your free \$300.

**NEW! FREE Support Materials at**  
<http://resources.benchmarkeducation.com>  
Download your own FREE support materials for texts in your school BookRoom.

**FREE!**  
Download and Print:

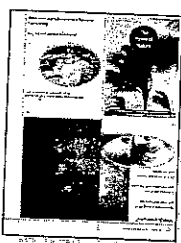
Many items are available in English and Spanish!



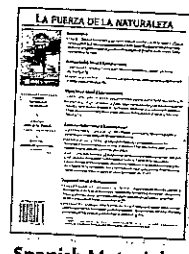
Comprehension Question Cards



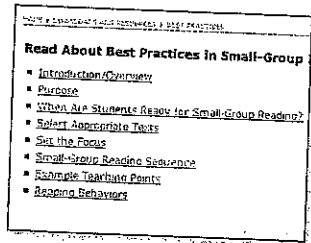
Teacher's Guides



Take-Home Books



Spanish Materials



Best Practices

Search and preview new books to meet your students' needs based on:

- Title
- Skill
- Reading Level
- Theme
- Grade
- Key Word