

Sunday System Quick Notes on...

National Reading Panel, Orton-Gillingham and The Sunday System

The National Reading Panel (NRP) conducted meta-analysis on over 2500 reading studies since 1966. The findings were published in the *National Reading Panel: Report of the Subgroups, 2000*. Based on this analysis, the panel identified 5 elements of instruction that need to be included in reading programs for them to be successful with struggling students. These elements are phonological awareness, phonics instruction, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. The National Reading Panel also provided tools to evaluate programs for the 5 elements.

The Sunday System® has been evaluated by educational experts in industry leading organizations such as the National Center for Learning Disabilities, the International Dyslexia Association and Reading First offices in 6 states. They are all in agreement that The Sunday System® contains the required elements identified by the NRP. The Sunday System® follows the teaching methodology of Orton-Gillingham closely. NRP identified Orton-Gillingham as one of the effective methodologies that addresses the needs of struggling students.

The Sunday System closely mirrors Orton-Gillingham, among the longest running, most heavily researched and proven approaches to teaching reading to struggling learners and those with disabilities. Author Arlene Sunday is a Founding Fellow and first President of the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators, the only professional Orton-Gillingham credentialing organization. Arlene is adjunct professor at both Farleigh-Dickenson University (Florham NJ), Hamline University (St. Paul MN). At both, and for Orton-Gillingham Minnesota, she co-authored Orton-Gillingham courses for instructors. In 2009, the International Dyslexia Association presented Arlene with the Margaret Byrd Rawson Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sunday System is Reading First approved in 6 States – AZ, MA, NJ, PA, WV and SD; Reading First funds have been used for Sunday System in all 6 states as well as Nebraska. Massachusetts utilized Florida Center for Reading Research well-known guidelines to formally evaluate and approve Sunday System. West Virginia used another prominent set of guidelines to evaluate the system – The Simmons-Kame'enui “Consumer’s Guide to Evaluating Supplemental and Intervention Reading Programs Grades K-3: A Critical Elements Analysis”. The University of Oregon published this guide to assist educators in determining whether programs meet criteria of the National Reading Panel for scientifically-based reading instruction.