

Struggling Readers: Standard 4

To learn more about how programs are scored on this standard, including how individual indicators are satisfied, please see its [scoring methodology](#).

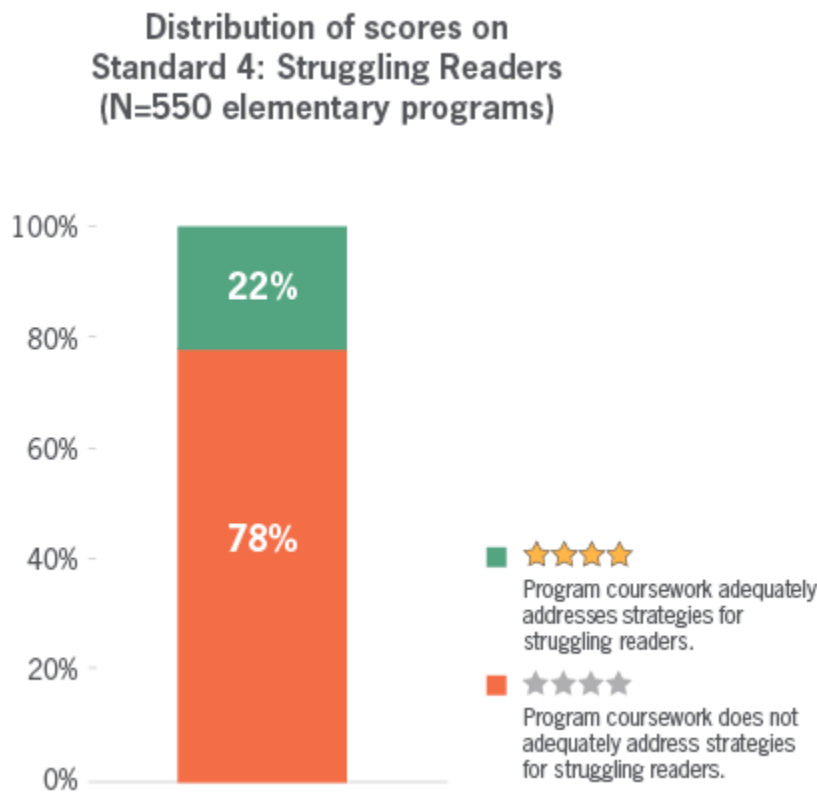
For information on resources for this standard, please see the [resources section](#).

Background

In most cases, the root cause of a diagnosis of a learning disability for a student is significant trouble in reading. So the best way to reduce the number of children in special education is to train teachers at the front line in the most effective strategies for preventing reading failure. In all but a few cases, early intervention by the classroom teacher can significantly improve the reading skills of students struggling to read.

The standard evaluates whether required reading courses for elementary teacher candidates present strategies to address struggling readers.

Overview



Sample for this standard: The sample encompasses all undergraduate and graduate elementary programs for which data obtained were clear enough to evaluate.

What are common reasons that programs earn no stars on the Struggling Readers Standard?

- *Coursework does not require high-caliber comprehensive reading textbooks to support instruction.* With a number of strong textbooks readily available, all instructors should require texts that adequately address strategies for struggling readers.
- *One or more literacy courses require a textbook that addresses struggling readers, but are not complemented by lectures and practice.* Lectures and practice must complement a strong textbook to fully support candidates as they learn how to differentiate instruction with the explicit purpose of remediating reading difficulties experienced by struggling readers.

Institutions of Distinction

Five institutions of higher education (IHEs) earn the distinction of having both the undergraduate and graduate elementary programs in our sample earn four stars: **California State University - Bakersfield, California State University - Dominguez Hills, California State University - East Bay, Florida State University and University of Maryland - College Park.**

Thirty-eight states have at least one elementary program in our sample at either the undergraduate or graduate level that earns four stars on this standard.

Findings

Twenty-two percent of elementary programs earn a score of four stars on this standard because they require coursework that may use texts, lectures or various types of practice that adequately address diagnosis of and intervention with struggling readers.

The remaining 78 percent of programs in our sample earn no stars on this standard.

Nine percent of programs in the sample earn four stars on this standard and also on the Early Reading Standard, meaning that in addition to providing strategies for children who are not on the right reading trajectory, their coursework also more broadly addresses the five essential components of effective reading instruction. Two programs provide especially strong early reading instruction and also earn four stars on this standard:

✓+ Both **Rockford College (IL)** and the **University of Minnesota - Morris** earn four stars on the Struggling Reader Standard and also earn a strong design designation on the Early Reading Standard.

Programs that earn four stars on both the Struggling Readers and Early Reading Standards

Undergraduate elementary	Graduate elementary
<p> Anderson University (IN) Arcadia University (PA) Arkansas State University California State University - Bakersfield California State University - Dominguez Hills Chaminade University of Honolulu (HI) Dallas Baptist University (TX) Delta State University (MS) Eastern Connecticut State University Elon University (NC) Eureka College (IL) Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Florida Gulf Coast University Florida State University Fort Lewis College (CO) Knox College (IL) Langston University (OK) Loyola University Chicago (IL) Miami University - Oxford (OH) North Carolina A&T State University North Central College (IL) Northern Kentucky University Rockford College (IL) Stephen F. Austin State University (TX) SUNY - Fredonia (NY) Texas A&M International University Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi Texas A&M University University of Colorado Colorado Springs University of Delaware University of Louisiana at Lafayette University of Memphis (TN) University of Minnesota - Morris University of New Mexico </p>	<p> California State University - Sacramento Christopher Newport University (VA) Florida State University Loyola Marymount University (CA) University of Maryland - College Park University of Minnesota - Twin Cities Western Governors University (UT) </p>

Undergraduate elementary	Graduate elementary
University of North Carolina at Wilmington University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma University of South Alabama University of St. Francis (IL) University of Texas at Austin William Carey University (MS)	