



SMART Reading Program Standards

The Program Standards describe how SMART Reading intends its vision and mission to be achieved. The standards are modeled after research that has proven SMART Reading's effectiveness in increasing the likelihood that third graders meet state reading benchmarks and the body of literature that establishes the importance and effectiveness of early intervention. SMART Reading staff, the schools and on-site volunteers work together to implement the Program Standards. (COVID-19 adaptations are indicated in **bold with an asterisk** below.)

1. SMART Reading is a literacy program for Prekindergarten through third-grade children.
2. Each child is scheduled to read one-on-one with volunteers at least once a week, with a preference for twice a week when possible. ***Depending on site needs and safety considerations, SMART Reading can offer virtual and/or in-person reading engagement to go alongside book distribution.**
3. Volunteers are scheduled to read with the same children each week.
4. Each scheduled Standard SMART Reading session is 30 minutes long.
 - a. Each scheduled PreK SMART Reading session is a minimum of 15 minutes long.
 - b. Each scheduled Kindergarten SMART Reading session is a minimum of 20 minutes long.
 - c. ***Virtual reading engagement options vary in length from 15-30 minutes.**
5. Children and volunteers read together for a minimum of six months. ***When possible. Virtual SMART is offered in three consecutive eight-week sessions throughout the year: Fall, Winter and Spring.**
6. SMART Reading provides a safe environment for all participating children, volunteers and SMART Reading staff.
7. Volunteers are trained every year, on or before the first day of reading with a child.
8. Per full month they are enrolled in SMART Reading, each child selects two books to keep, up to 14 books per program year.
9. All books read in SMART Reading meet the [Book Guidelines](#).