

# Approved List of Evidence-Based Reading Intervention Programs

## Program and Vendor Information

This form contains general information about the approved program and vendor. It is intended to assist districts in evaluating reading intervention programs before contacting vendors for local procurements.

### Approved Program and Vendor

#### PROGRAM TITLE AND PUBLICATION YEAR OR EDITION

In Tandem, 2nd Edition, 2024

#### VENDOR

Pioneer Valley Educational Press, Inc. DBA Pioneer Valley Books

Target Audience of Instructional Programming	Reading Components Claimed	Professional Development in Materials Available
Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade	Phonics and Word Study	Yes

## Vendor Information

#### VENDOR WEBSITE

<https://pioneervalleybooks.com>

#### VENDOR CONTACT INFORMATION

##### CONTACT #1

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## Program Specific Information

*The information below was supplied by the vendor.*

### PROGRAM

In Tandem

### PROGRAM SPECIFIC WEBSITE

<https://pioneervalleybooks.com/pages/in-tandem>

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In Tandem is a research-based literacy intervention for students needing targeted instruction in phonics. In Tandem combines systematic phonics with targeted small-group, differentiated instruction. The In Tandem program is designed to systematically and explicitly introduce students to phonic elements. The lessons contain varied opportunities to practice and apply phonics skills in the initial lesson and through cumulative review. Students are intentionally placed in the program using a phonics diagnostic assessment, and their progress is tracked through daily and weekly progress monitoring and unit-level summative assessments. For students with minimal alphabetic knowledge, the Pre-Alphabetic kit provides instruction in letter names, sounds, and formation. The Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade kits offer a five-day lesson structure that includes daily modeling, isolated practice of the phonic element, and application to authentic reading and writing experiences. Day 5 is dedicated to progress monitoring. Each In Tandem lesson in the K–2 kits features a decodable Phonics Storybook and a paired fiction/nonfiction reader to allow students to immediately apply phonics learning to connected text. To provide an additional scaffold during the reading portion of the lesson, teachers have the option of incorporating a shared reading structure. In Tandem offers dynamic instruction that can be intensified to accelerate learning for all students.

### PRIMARY METHOD OF INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY

Teacher-directed instruction

### PROGRAM ALIGNMENT WITH THE SCIENCE OF READING AND STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE LITERACY INSTRUCTION

Each element of In Tandem includes effective strategies for literacy instruction backed by scientific research that verifies its positive effects on student learning and reading proficiency. Systematic phonics instruction is a crucial aspect of early reading instruction, as it helps students develop foundational skills in decoding and word recognition (Ehri, 2020; Blevins, 2016; National Reading Panel, 2000). Effective phonics instruction teaches students to associate sounds with corresponding letters and letter patterns so that they learn to be flexible word solvers as they encode (write) and decode (read) words (Ehri et al., 2001; Blevins, 2016). Explicit instruction in blending is also critical in helping students learn to read simple words and multisyllabic words (Blevins, 2019; Foorman et al., 2016).

In Tandem's units were designed based on Ehri's (1995) Phases of Reading. All levels of In Tandem include systematic phonics instruction with explicit instruction and opportunities to practice blending and segmenting words in isolation and connected text. In Tandem also contains frequent opportunities to encode words in isolation and authentic writing. An effective approach to teaching phonics involves engaging multiple senses to enhance learning and boost memory. Using multimodal tools helps engage students and hold their attention, which can increase their motivation to learn. For more information, please see the In Tandem Handbook, Introduction and Chapter 1, pages 3–6 and 9–11, and the Summary of Research (online at <https://pioneervalleybooks.com/pages/research-summaries>).

## **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND ONGOING SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS TO AID IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM**

Pioneer Valley Books has built its professional learning around clear demonstration of procedures and processes for educators. Here are some of the ways this is embedded in the sessions:

- Pioneer Valley Books' professional learning offerings emphasize active engagement during all phases of training sessions.
- Teachers are further supported by on-demand videos that demonstrate all parts of lesson frameworks and are available at all times.
- All professional learning delivered on-site includes in-class demonstration lessons with debrief sessions.
- Professional learning plans can be adjusted to meet the specific needs of a school or district.

The initial Getting Started with In Tandem Lessons session gives an overview of the In Tandem lesson framework. Each K–2 lesson framework begins with a spotlight on fostering phonemic awareness and phonics skills that are then tightly woven into reading and writing. Participants walk away confident to begin implementing In Tandem lessons. Half- or full-day options are available. After this initial session, there are options for Digging Deeper: Developing Phonemic Awareness and Phonics Skills and Digging Deeper: Building Reading and Writing Skills. Through these sessions, teachers gain increased knowledge of the theory behind using multiple strategies to build phonemic awareness and phonics skills and how they transfer to continuous text, enhancing decoding and encoding skills. Teachers also deepen their knowledge of delivering effective phonemic awareness and phonics lessons. Additionally, they learn how to observe students, provide corrective feedback, and use anecdotal data and assessments to intensify instruction based on student needs.

After any Pioneer Valley Books' professional learning session, educators receive robust ongoing support and access to resources to ensure the fidelity of the implementation. Support is provided in the following areas:

- Video support (resource website)
- Robust handbook for seamless and effective implementation
- Ongoing live webinars and access to a library of previous webinars

- Open-door email access for literacy support