

Comparison/Contrast of Essential Learning Systems (ELS) vs. Reading Recovery

Reading Recovery Features	Essential Learning Systems Features
Serves Grade 1 bottom quartile	More flexible: Serves k-adult struggling readers.
RR is an intervention at one grade-level only. Additional programs would have to be purchased to use as prevention in kindergarten and/or to use for students in grades 2-12 who continue to struggle.	ELS is effectively used in kindergarten and grade 1 to prevent difficulties in later grades. It is also used in grades k-12 as a therapeutic intervention for students who struggle, due either to learning difficulties or disabilities.
RR is inappropriate to satisfy requirements for dyslexia programs (since it is only a grade 1 program), although it might prevent initial identification	Not only does ELS prevent initial identification of dyslexia, but it also meets the requirements/criteria for state-mandated dyslexia interventions. See correlation to dyslexia requirements under “support” at www.ceilearning.com .
RR is a regular education program, serving grade 1 students most in need	ELS can be used at all grades not only in regular education, but also for students identified in special programs, including special education and LEP programs. See correlation to a study on occipitotemporal system under “support” at www.ceilearning.com .
RR is a regular education program, serving grade 1 students most in need	ELS can be used as a prevention program in k-1 and as a Tier II and/or Tier III intervention for grades k-12 in the new IDEA Response to Intervention programs.
One-on-one tutoring with a highly trained teacher	One-on-one tutoring via computer-assisted instruction, facilitated by a trained teacher or aide—much less expensive teacher cost (especially if an aide facilitates the lab) and much less expensive training costs (free with initial lab purchase and free with service agreement if needed in subsequent years).
Must have a fully trained RR teacher to begin program (training takes at least a year)	ELS labs can be fully implemented within about a month of purchase (time to process paperwork, ship materials, schedule and conduct training, etc.).

Reading Recovery Features	Essential Learning Systems Features
RR charges on its website for correlations, copies of research reports, handbooks for principals, and other publications	CEI provides free on its website (www.ceilearning.com) full access to its correlations, its papers documenting scientific evidence, and other valuable publications. Also, principals are provided free the <i>ELS Implementation Toolkit</i> .
Teacher usually serves 5-10 students daily and may also serve one or more small instructional groups. A 2002 study published by <i>Journal of Reading Recovery</i> shows average cost per student was almost \$4,000.	ELS lab can serve concurrently as many children as the school has station licenses. Program can run before/after school, in evenings, on Saturdays, and/or in summer school. Very low cost per student, especially after initial purchase.
If teacher leaves the school, the school must either hire another certified RR teacher or wait another year to train one of their own—at the school’s cost.	If an ELS teacher/aide leaves the school, CEI will train free (for schools with active service contracts) the replacement facilitator as quickly as possible so that students don’t lose instructional time.
Teacher prepares RR reports for parents	ELS provides frequent parent reports—available in both English and Spanish; reports on testing results and ELS progress available, LET-II parent report offers recommendations for parents, as well as teachers.
RR not appropriate to teach parents literacy skills	Many schools use ELS for adult education, including parent literacy training. See correlation to adult education standards under “support” at www.ceilearning.com .
Duration of treatment: 12-20 weeks	Duration of treatment: Depends upon the individual student’s needs. Almost all students exit the program in one year or less.
Ongoing additional costs for consultation, training, materials, assessments, etc.	Low annual service fee provides training for lab facilitators, awareness sessions for faculty and parents, and advanced training; follow-up/coaching for facilitators; testing materials; software upgrades and enhancements; student/teacher/school recognition programs; <i>SHARE</i> (newsmagazine); motivation for student success; technical support; online, e-mail, and telephone consultation services; etc.

Reading Recovery Features	Essential Learning Systems Features
Delivery is via teacher using print materials only	Delivery is via teacher/aide using software utilizing multi-sensory strategies and incorporating adequate and varied practice/ repetition activities to develop mastery.
Teacher manually keeps records of individual student progress	ELS software includes Student Management System, tracking student progress electronically and producing reports on demand.
Teacher prepares testing reports of pre- to post-test gains	ELS software provides, in color, comprehensive statistical analysis of pre- to post-test gains for individual students, by class, and/or by school or district; used by staff to report to faculty, superintendent's staff, and/or school boards
Separate training and materials have to be purchased if the goal is to teach Spanish-speaking children to read in Spanish	ELS is a supplement to the ESOL program, teaching English phonemes, pronunciation, spelling, definitions, and using English words in context. Students learn both how to read, but also learn English. See correlation to LEP instruction at www.ceilearning.com.
Comprehensive assessment system	Comprehensive assessment system (diagnostic, continuous progress monitoring, mastery tests, and pre/post assessments). Two of the diagnostic tests are third-party.
Individualized	Individualized and differentiated
Correlates to National Reading Panel findings	Correlates to National Reading Panel findings. See correlation under "support" at www.ceilearning.com.
Grounded in scientific evidence	Grounded in scientific evidence. See <i>Why ELS Works: Its Scientific, Theoretical, and Evaluation Research Base</i>—available for reading/downloading at www.ceilearning.com.
Proof of effectiveness	Proof of effectiveness. See "results" at www.ceilearning.com.