

Dear Educators,

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt® is proud to announce that *Journeys* K–2 has received a **Strong Evidence** rating from the Center for Research and Reform in Education at Johns Hopkins University. Led by Dr. Robert Slavin, this organization has created Evidence for ESSA (evidenceforessa.org) to highlight education programs that meet the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) accountability regulations.

In the past, No Child Left Behind regulations required schools to use research-based educational programs. The new ESSA regulations go further. They require that programs be scientifically tested and proven effective. The levels of evidence are as follows:

- **Strong Evidence:** at least 1 well-designed, well-implemented experimental (e.g., randomized) study.
- **Moderate Evidence:** at least 1 well-designed, well-implemented quasi-experimental (e.g., matched) study.
- Promising Evidence: at least 1 well-designed, well-implemented correlational study.

The *Journeys* Randomized Control Trial (RCT) placed it in the **Strong Evidence** level. The RCT found that students who used *Journeys* scored 6 percentile points higher than control students on spelling and word analysis skills, 7 percentile points higher than the average of control students on vocabulary and comprehension skills, and 15 percentile points higher than the average of control students on reading words at kindergarten.

Currently in use by over 6.7 million students nationwide, *Journeys* has been the subject of several scientific trials. The results consistently show that after *Journeys* program implementation, students make statistically significant gains.

Thank you for your commitment to education and for your dedication to your students. We look forward to supporting you in your critical role of empowering students with literacy.

Sincerely, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt





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