

A Teacher's Cheat Sheet for System 44 (version 1.2)

Called System (as in a system that you can navigate) and 44 because the 44 sounds or phonemes (can be a letter or 2 such as s or sh) in the English language

The Basics about the Software

- Students take the SRI first. If they score a 400 or below (elementary) or a 600 or below (middle school or high school), they take the 10 minute SPI (Scholastic Phonics Inventory) assessment.
- The SPI has the same degree of accuracy as the TOWRE and Woodcock Johnson achievement tests. The SPI measures letter recognition, decoding, & sight word knowledge.
- After both tests have been taken, teachers need to run the "Screening and Placement Report" which reports where students should be placed--in *READ 180* or *System 44*. If they need foundational topics such as understanding consonants and short vowels, students will begin with Series 1 of *System 44*. Other students will begin with more advanced skills such as understanding final blends and closed syllables in Series 4 of *System 44*.
- There are 25 series in *System 44*. Each series has 5 to 8 topics or lessons. There are 160 total topics.
- Topics come from 1 of 4 strands of instruction: The Code, Word Strategies, Sight Words and Success. Once a student enters the Code, Word Strategies, or Sight Words strands, he or she must work through 4 zones: smart, word, spelling & fluency.
- Earlier series have more topics from the Code Strand because these lessons build foundational skills in sound-spelling correspondence and decoding.
- At the end of Series 3 to 23, students take a 5 to 7 minute "fast track" assessment for the upcoming series. If they score a 95% on the entire test, these students may skip ahead to the next series. Furthermore, fast tracking is possible throughout the topics too as the questions from the fast track test correspond to certain topics. If students pass those questions, they may fast track through those topics too.
- At the end of each topic or lesson within a series, students take a progress monitoring assessment. They must master this before moving on to the next topic. Students have 6 chances to do so. Teachers are alerted after three times. After six times, students are given a "provisional promotion" to go on to the next series.
- Most students can complete a software topic in 1-2 sessions. Since each series has a different number of topics, it should take students about 2 weeks to complete a series.
- Unlike *READ 180*, students may not choose a strand to work in; rather, they move throughout the program on a path.
- The only time that students have a choice in the software is at the very beginning of their sessions when they may click on their dashboards. This is called the explorer mode.
- Ivan is the main host while Erica and Mark are also hosts.

Basics about the System 44 Teaching Guide

- Lessons are grouped by series, just as they are in the software.
- There are three types of lessons in the *Teaching Guide* : S.M.A.R.T. lessons (which can be re-taught throughout the school year), Code and Word Strategies Lessons (which also include Differentiated Support "Yellow Page" lessons), and RED Routine lessons.
- If a student is placed into Series 4, teachers should teach only the S.M.A.R.T. (Strategies for Metacognition, Academic Language, Reading & Thinking) lessons from Series 1 to 3.
- Each S.M.A.R.T. lesson has 4 steps with a quick assessment as the 4th step and a corresponding SAM Practice Page. Practice pages will be available on SAM once the software is installed. They will be found in the resource tab.
- Each Code lesson also has 4 steps which follow the gradual release model (I do, We do, You do) just like the S.M.A.R.T. lessons. The Code lessons do not have SAM Practice Pages. Instead, there is a blue Reinforce box that shows related student practice pages from the *Decodable Digest* and the 44Book.
- Differentiated Support "Yellow Page" lessons follow every Code lesson. This is where you will find the lesson plans for the *Decodable Digest* pages as well as the Sound and Articulation DVD.
- Instructional Routines are interspersed with the lessons within a series. Step-by-step directions for the routines can be found in the "RED Instructional Routines" tab in the back of the *Teaching Guide*.
- While these routines are listed on each series' overview pages, they are not included within the actual *Teaching Guide's* pages. In other words, unless one looks back to the overview pages, it is easy to forget to incorporate these routines into the lessons as there is no prompt found.
- Don't forget to look through the Resource pages in the back of the *Teaching Guide*. There is a phenomenal Contrastive Analysis on pages 446-457; a summary of the System 44 software topics on pages 576-578; the success videos overview on pages 591-595; and the System 44 SAM Resources Index on pages 604-611.

Basics about the System 44 Library

- There are 36 books in the library with 13 books in common between the upper elementary and secondary libraries. The book number is the same in both libraries.
- All books are audiobooks. There are 6 CDs with 6 titles on each CD.
- The books' lexiles range from 130 to 450.
- The books are numbered so they can be assigned sequentially, or teachers can match them according to software lessons.
- The books introduce new academic vocabulary called Smart Words.
- The books each have a phonics focus.

Basics about the Decodable Digest

- This resource provides two fluency passages for each phonics skill in the series. These passages are 75% decodable and allow immediate application of the skill to text.
- Starting on page 18, there is a React question which engages students to the passage(s).
- Most passages include *Glossary Links* which remind students to refer to the glossary where they can find useful information about key words.
- At the end of the *Decodable Digest*, there is a list of the sound-spelling correspondences and high-frequency words introduced in each passage called *Summary of Text Elements*.

Miscellaneous Tips

- Review the Quick Start Guide. It contains 10 specific and important steps that teachers should know. Make sure that you review the bullets as well.
- Read through the front pages of the *Screening, Assessment, and Reporting Guide* (SARG). It is very colorful with great screen shots!
- There is a great Phonics 101 guide at the back of the *System 44 Teacher Implementation Guide*, starting on page 120.