Hello! I'm **Mary Whitmore**, a retired teacher from Forest Grove, Oregon.

In 2004 I was trained in **Riggs**—explicit phonics. I instantly recognized that it was a more cost-efficient way to teach English reading than anything I had seen in 15 years. In 2007 I started lobbying the board and kept getting ignored. **Dr. Curtis** took the reins and refused to even visit a private school in our district which has used **Riggs** for **22 years**. She chose to spend $600,000 on a new literacy program, amid staff layoffs and a school closure. She made a big mistake, but will probably get away with it until the board agrees to evaluate Pearson; without an evaluation, no one can ever prove it was a success or failure. We just keep muddling along.

Wake up, America!

Kids learn reading faster with ***phonics first***—that's why ORS 337.275 was on the books for 13 years—too bad Oregon school boards ignored it. Now there is no one to keep an eye on the hen house: the State Board of Ed has apparently been dissolved.

References: www.riggsinst.org, www.spalding.org, and www.Orton-gillingham.org. Find an "explicit phonics school" near you and compare their student work with your own.
teachenglishinhalfthetime@hotmail.com, 503-327-9623 P.S. Riggs is FREE!