





ReadAbout™


Aligns to Enhancing Education Through Technology Criteria


The primary goal of the *Enhancing Education through Technology* (Ed Tech) program is to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology in schools. According to the federal *Guidance on the Enhancing Education through Technology (Ed Tech) Program*, a Local Education Agency’s (LEA) technology plan must address 13 specific components in order to qualify for formula or competitive funding. The following chart details how **ReadAbout** helps meet 12 of these requirements.


Required <i>Ed Tech</i> Components	ReadAbout
<p>1. <u>Strategies for improving academic achievement and teacher effectiveness:</u> A description of how the applicant will use <i>Ed Tech</i> funds to improve the academic achievement, including technology literacy, of all students attending schools served by the LEA and to improve the capacity of all teachers in schools served by the LEA to integrate technology effectively into curriculum and instruction</p>	<p>Scholastic’s ReadAbout maximizes students’ reading achievement through software that individualizes instruction based on continuous assessment. The self-managed program meets the needs of all students in the classroom, whether they require intervention, instruction, or enrichment. Using research-based, highly engaging materials, ReadAbout helps students in Grades 3-6 comprehend expository text by building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nonfiction reading comprehension skills and strategies ▪ High-utility vocabulary and academic language ▪ Content-area knowledge <p><u>Individualized Software Instruction and Practice</u></p> <p>ReadAbout’s topics, which are all nonfiction, align to standards in English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. The program targets reading instruction and reinforcement activities based on a student’s ability level, skills needs, grade level, and interest levels. The software continuously adjusts content and scaffolds learning in response to a student’s performance. Targeted corrective feedback and skills tutorials accelerate student achievement, and the instructional sequence provokes the use of metacognitive strategies.</p> <p>ReadAbout’s technology facilitates students’ <i>vocabulary</i> acquisition through these features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The software provides direct instruction of high-utility and content-rich “Smart Words,” which are pretaught to students before they read the passages. ▪ Students can hear a word pronounced in English and Spanish and receive a contextual meaning for many of the words in the program. ▪ The program provides students with multiple exposures to words in online passages and exercises. ▪ Students have time to explore, interact, sort, and play with their collection of “Smart Words.” ▪ ReadAbout motivates students to build vocabulary by awarding stars for successfully completing software instructional segments and practice activities. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Continued)</i></p>


Required Ed Tech Components	 ReadAbout
<p>Strategies for improving academic achievement and teacher effectiveness, Continued</p>	<p>Software <i>comprehension</i> instruction includes these online strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Before reading, children watch a brief, high-interest video that builds background knowledge about the text they will be reading. ▪ Students receive a “Skill Brief,” which activates students’ prior knowledge and shows how the skill is used in real-world contexts. ▪ During reading, students build content-area knowledge in the areas of science, social studies, and life experiences. ▪ Students receive direct instruction in ten nonfiction comprehension skills, including fact/opinion, inference, compare/contrast, problem/solution, and author’s purpose. ▪ Instruction includes seven comprehension strategies—visualizing, setting a purpose, monitoring, summarizing, questioning, rereading, and repairing. ▪ Each reading passage is formatted in one of seven real-world text types, such as letter, magazine article, journal and Web page, to help teach text features. ▪ Students practice skills online and during independent reading of SmartFiles printed passages, which are related to the software topics. <p>Children learn and practice <i>writing</i> skills using these interactive and teacher-directed methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Using the 6+1 Trait® Writing lessons, available in SAM (Scholastic Achievement Manager), teachers present specific writing traits such as word choice, conventions, ideas, and voice. ▪ Scaffolded writing prompts appear on each interactive “Knowledge Card,” allowing students to apply the knowledge they gained in reading and express their personal opinions. ▪ The software’s “Text Type Tutor” provides students with instructional support as they learn about and practice writing in seven different text types. Supplemental text-type lessons are available in SAM. ▪ Printed SmartFiles provide children with writing prompts and exercises related to software topics. These give students writing practice in expository, persuasive, descriptive, and narrative formats. <p>Through leveled, high-interest passages, engaging practice activities, reading supports, and immediate feedback, ReadAbout motivates students to participate in the program and increase their learning.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Continued)</i></p>


Required Ed Tech Components	 ReadAbout
<p>Strategies for improving academic achievement and teacher effectiveness, Continued</p>	<p><u>Data-Driven, Teacher-Directed Instruction</u></p> <p>ReadAbout is supported by SAM, which manages all the information and performance data for students, teachers, and schools that are using ReadAbout. SAM provides real-time, detailed electronic reports that educators can use for instructional planning. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Student Knowledge Report, which provides a comprehensive assessment of student performance in vocabulary and comprehension sections▪ Topic Frequency Report, which provides teachers with an overview of how students have responded to and performed on individual ReadAbout topics.▪ Performance Range Grouping Report, which groups students into performance ranges based on the text levels they have achieved in their completed topics.▪ Skills Grouping Intervention Report, which identifies students who are experiencing low performance on a particular skill. <p>The <i>Assessment, Reports, and Differentiated Instruction Guide</i> explains each report's purpose, how to understand the data, how to use the data, and how often educators should generate the report to be most useful. The Data-Driven Instructional Planner in the guide helps teachers match a student with one of the program's ten Differentiated Comprehension Lessons. The guide also provides six Differentiated Vocabulary Routines.</p> <p>ReadAbout provides teachers with printed Topic Planners, which preview the topics that children are encountering in the software. They contain optional lessons that are related to the software topics and that support learning during small-group, teacher-directed instruction time. These lessons also connect to printed SmartFiles, which contain independent student reading and practice activities.</p> <p><u>Teacher Resources</u></p> <p>ReadAbout provides teachers with crucial resources to ensure effective implementation of the program. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Step-by-step instructions for software installation▪ Software manuals and reference guides▪ How to access, generate, and use electronic, comprehensive ReadAbout reports▪ Lessons that connect to the software topics▪ Research-based implementation models▪ Differentiated instruction of comprehension and vocabulary skills▪ SAM keyword links to printable resources▪ SAM Grading Tool to track student performance in offline SmartFiles activities


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<p>2. <u>Goals:</u> A description of the applicant’s specific goals, aligned with challenging state standards, for using advanced technology to improve student academic achievement</p>	<p>ReadAbout’s reading instruction and content-area topics align to state and national standards in English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. Research informs the vocabulary sequence and comprehension instruction.</p> <p>Based on continuous assessment, the software provides personalized skills instruction in vocabulary and comprehension that addresses a student’s specific needs. This assessment data also informs teacher-directed, differentiated instruction.</p> <p>ReadAbout provides these features for students’ optimal learning and academic achievement aligned to state standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Direct instruction in high-utility and content-area vocabulary that offers students multiple exposure to words ▪ Direct instruction of 17 vital nonfiction comprehension skills and strategies ▪ Varied opportunities to build background and content-area knowledge ▪ Scaffolded, instructional support through leveled text, software features, and differentiated lessons ▪ Targeted skills practice online and during independent activities ▪ Exposure to different text types ▪ Writing exercises in expository, persuasive, descriptive, and narrative formats
<p>3. <u>Steps to increase accessibility:</u> A description of the steps the applicant will take to ensure that all students and teachers have increased access to technology</p>	<p>ReadAbout’s powerful technology accommodates students with varying abilities and special needs. The software provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Personalized instruction and support continuously adjusted based on a student’s responses ▪ Appropriate instruction and support for students with far-below-, below-, on-, and above-level reading abilities and whose Lexile® scores are between a 300-1100 range ▪ Closed-captioned anchor videos ▪ Keystroke navigation option ▪ Text and voice-over support for all key instruction throughout the software ▪ Read-aloud option with phrase-by-phrase highlighting for all passages ▪ Spanish support features, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Translations of vocabulary words, definitions, idioms, captions, anchor video introductions, and topic introductions ○ Connection to cognates <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Continued)</i></p>


Required Ed Tech Components	 ReadAbout
<p>Steps to increase accessibility: Continued</p>	<p>ReadAbout provides teachers with technology support to maximize the implementation of the program in their classrooms, computer labs, or after-school learning programs. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>ReadAbout Software Manual</i>, which contains step-by-step instructions for using ReadAbout and SAM in the classroom, explains the student experience, and provides instructions for guiding students through ReadAbout. ▪ <i>SAM Software Manual for ReadAbout</i>, which provides detailed instructions on how to use SAM to monitor students' progress and manage students, classrooms, groups, schools, and districts that are using ReadAbout ▪ <i>SAM Quick Reference Guide</i> ▪ <i>SAM Technical and Installation Guide</i> ▪ <i>Assessments, Reports and Differentiated Instruction Guide</i>, which contains guidelines for generating comprehensive, electronic reports to inform instruction ▪ <i>Topic Planners</i>, which preview the software instruction, topics, and passages that students are encountering in the program ▪ <i>Know About ReadAbout Guide</i>, which explains how the program's components fit together to increase student achievement
<p>4. <u>Promotion of curricula and teaching strategies that integrate technology:</u> A description of how the applicant will identify and promote curricula and teaching strategies that integrate technology effectively into curricula and instruction, based on a review of relevant research and leading to improvements in student academic achievement</p>	<p>Designed to work seamlessly alongside any core reading program, <i>ReadAbout</i> uses the power of technology, high-interest nonfiction, and the best thinking about motivation to help students make the transition from fiction to nonfiction text. <i>ReadAbout</i> uses adaptive software to provide continuous assessment and differentiated reading instruction for every child, whether they require intervention, instruction, or enrichment. The program's high-interest reading choices, engaging anchor videos, corrective feedback, personalized instruction, and unique digital reward system keeps students fully engaged, helping them to develop the skills they need to become effective, successful readers.</p> <p><i>ReadAbout</i> offers unique software features that support students' achievement:</p> <p><u>Maximized Instruction and Learning Supports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "Intelligent" software that automatically adjusts reading instruction and practice to meet students' specific needs ▪ On-screen skills and text-type tutorials ▪ Self-managed, self-paced instruction ▪ Anchor videos that build background knowledge ▪ On-screen graphic organizers ▪ Student on-screen hosts that provide navigational help and support <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Continued)</i></p>


Required Ed Tech Components	 ReadAbout
<p>Promotion of curricula and teaching strategies that integrate technology, Continued</p>	<p><u>Continuous Assessments that Drive Instruction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Built-in skills assessments at strategic points in each topic lesson ▪ Twenty software-generated, actionable reports that track students' progress and provide assessment data for instructional planning ▪ Differentiated comprehension and vocabulary lessons matched to students based on assessments <p><u>Student Engagement and Motivation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High-interest, interactive reading passages ▪ Engaging, interactive practice activities, including word exploration and word play ▪ Immediate corrective feedback ▪ Digital vocabulary cards <p><u>Scaffolded Instruction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Closed-caption anchor videos ▪ Text and voice-over support for all key instruction ▪ Read aloud for all passages with phrase-by-phrase highlighting
<p>5. <u>Professional development:</u> A description of how the applicant will provide ongoing, sustained professional development for teachers, principals, administrators, and school library media personnel to further the effective use of technology in the classroom or library media center</p>	<p>The <i>ReadAbout</i> Implementation Training exposes <i>ReadAbout</i> teachers to the program's background and research, engages them in the student experience through a software simulator, explores the program components, supports the development of an instructional plan tailored to their school and classroom content, offers practice using the <i>Scholastic Achievement Manager</i> system (SAM), explains the use of the many reports available through SAM, and informs them of other professional development opportunities with Scholastic RED and the Professional Development Video workshops.</p> <p><i>ReadAbout</i> includes enrollment in the Scholastic RED online course <i>ReadAbout: Improving Nonfiction Reading Comprehension</i>. The course focuses on proven, scientifically based teaching strategies and methods to help raise student reading achievement. Through 24-hour access to online resources and training, teachers can participate in interactive simulations and watch videos that show master practitioners modeling research-based practices in real classrooms. The course integrates topics within the context of the <i>ReadAbout</i> curriculum and materials.</p>

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<p>6. <u>Technology type and costs:</u> A description of the type and costs of technology to be acquired with education technology funds, including provisions for interoperability of components</p>	<p>The following system requirements are recommended for the best performance of <i>ReadAbout</i>.</p> <p><u>Student Workstation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Windows: XP SP2, Pentium IV/1.0GHz ▪ Macintosh: OS x 10.4.X, G4/1.25GHz ▪ RAM: 256MB ▪ Free hard disk space: 500MB ▪ 8x CD-ROM Drive ▪ Headphones, microphone ▪ CD Player ▪ 800 x 600 16-Bit Color Monitor <p><u>Teacher Workstation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Windows: XP SP2, Pentium IV/1.5GHz ▪ Macintosh: OS x 10.4>X, G4/1.25GHz ▪ RAM: 512MB ▪ Free hard disk space: 500MB ▪ 8x CD-ROM Drive ▪ Headphones, microphone ▪ CD Player ▪ 800 x 600 16-bit Color Monitor ▪ TV Monitor ▪ DVD Player ▪ Internet Connection ▪ Color Printer <p><u>Application Server:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Windows: Windows 2003 Server, Dual 3.2GHz Xeon ▪ Macintosh: OS X v10.4.X, Dual 2.0GHz G5 ▪ RAM: 2048MB ▪ Free hard disk space: 5GB <p><u>Data Aggregation Server:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Windows: Windows 2003 Server, Dual 3.2GHz Xeon ▪ Macintosh: OS X v10.4.X, Dual 2.0GHz G5 ▪ RAM: 2048MB ▪ Free hard disk space: 1 GB per school (does not include the storage of student recordings) <p><i>Scholastic will conduct a tech audit and make recommendations.</i></p>
<p>7. <u>Coordination with other resources:</u> A description of how the applicant will coordinate activities funded through the education technology program with technology-related activities supported with funds from other sources</p>	<p>ReadAbout can be integrated with specific technology-related school activities using Ed Tech funds and money from state, local, and other sources. The federal funding programs for which ReadAbout are applicable include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs ▪ Title I – Supplemental Educational Services ▪ Title III – English Language Acquisition ▪ 21st Century Community Learning Centers ▪ IDEA, Part B ▪ IDEA, <i>Response to Intervention</i>

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<p>8. <u>Integration of technology with curricula and instruction:</u> A description of how the applicant will integrate technology (including software and electronically delivered learning materials) into curricula and instruction, and a timeline for this integration</p>	<p>ReadAbout is flexible enough to fold easily into the English Language Arts block and supplement a core reading program. Its self-managed instruction enables children in Grades 3-6 to work with minimal supervision. Students move through the instructional software at their own pace and on their own reading level. Like a coach, the software monitors their progress and adjusts instruction accordingly. For independent reading and exercises tied to the topics in the software, children read passages and do exercises on printed SmartFiles cards.</p> <p>ReadAbout works equally well in computer labs and during after-school and extended learning programs. Students rotate onto computers for 20-minute, self-managed periods of instruction. Scholastic recommends that each student use the software at least twice a week and SmartFiles once a week. As an option, teachers can use ReadAbout's differentiated lessons and Topic Planner cards to support learning during small-group, teacher-directed instruction.</p> <p>ReadAbout's adaptive software provides direct instruction, intervening when necessary with leveled tutorials on specific comprehension skills and vocabulary words. Each student who is successful will experience slightly more difficult content in his or her next topic. Each student who performs less successfully will receive additional instruction using topics with slightly easier content.</p>
<p>9. <u>Innovative delivery strategies:</u> A description of how the applicant will encourage the development and use of innovative strategies for the delivery of specialized or rigorous courses and curricula through the use of technology, including distance-learning technologies, particularly in areas that would not otherwise have access to such courses or curricula due to geographical distances or insufficient resources</p>	<p>ReadAbout is a supplemental program and is designed to be used as the technology rotation for any core reading program. It is recommended that students use the ReadAbout software at least twice per week and SmartFiles once per week. ReadAbout allows for flexible implementation; it can be used in a classroom or lab setting, after-school, and extended learning programs.</p> <p>ReadAbout has a clear instructional path. The program begins by assessing students' reading levels, skill abilities, and interests. The program presents three reading topics that reflect each student's individual needs. Every topic addresses reading achievement by providing anchored instruction, scaffolded reading, informative assessment, and personalized practice.</p> <p>Students are appropriately placed in ReadAbout through the <i>Scholastic Reading Inventory</i> (SRI), which assesses each student's independent reading level. Teachers can also manually place students in ReadAbout.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Continued)</p>

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Innovative delivery strategies Continued	<p>The steps in the <i>ReadAbout</i> instructional sequence are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="721 317 1443 495">1. <u>Anchored Instruction</u>—<i>ReadAbout</i> prepares students to learn by anchoring instruction and building mental models. Before students begin reading, the program pre-teaches vocabulary, frontloads comprehension instruction, and builds background knowledge through content-related videos.<li data-bbox="721 531 1443 743">2. <u>Scaffolded Reading</u>—<i>ReadAbout</i> customizes instruction by delivering content and instruction based on student performance. Every reading passage is formatted in one of seven real-world text structures to help teach text features. The program provides explicit instruction in skills and strategies and provides multiple exposures to high-utility vocabulary.<li data-bbox="721 779 1443 1016">3. <u>Informative Assessment</u>—<i>ReadAbout</i> assesses students on vocabulary and comprehension performance. Targeted corrective feedback provides further instruction when difficulty arises, along with the opportunity to try again. Each keystroke is recorded and not only informs the adaptive algorithm, but also provides extensive reporting. Teachers and administrators can access student and cohort data in the <i>ReadAbout</i> reports.<li data-bbox="721 1052 1443 1230">4. <u>Personalized Practice</u>—<i>ReadAbout</i> provides students with the opportunity to practice vocabulary through dynamic instructional activities and a personalized collection of vocabulary cards. It also offers further on-level practice with comprehension skills, as well as topic-specific writing activities.<li data-bbox="721 1266 1443 1444">5. <u>Adaptive Interventions</u>—<i>ReadAbout</i> adapts to stay on pace with students by delivering reading passages at a higher or lower level, according to need; delivering vocabulary review as needed; and engaging students in tutorials on comprehension skills. Dynamic scaffolds adjust passage text level based on student performance. <p><i>ReadAbout</i> is a self-managed program and students use it independently. Students move through the instructional software at their own pace and at their own reading levels. The software monitors student progress and adjust instruction accordingly. Each of the <i>ReadAbout</i> 70 topics includes three reading passages. A Student must complete each passage before moving to another topic. On average, a student will complete a single topic in 2-3 weeks.</p>

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<p>10. <u>Parental involvement:</u> A description of how the applicant will use technology effectively to promote parental involvement and increase communication with parents, including a description of how parents will be informed of the technology used</p>	<p>At the beginning of the grading period, parents and caregivers receive a letter introducing them to the ReadAbout program and suggesting ways to help them encourage their children’s reading success. Through another letter, teachers regularly provide parents and caregivers with information about their children’s progress. Both of these letters are available in English and Spanish. Students also take home reports that summarize the “Smart Words” that they are currently studying in a chosen topic. Students can use the reports as homework study sheets.</p>
<p>11. <u>Accountability measures:</u> A description of the process and accountability measures that the applicant will use to evaluate the extent to which activities funded under the program are effective in integrating technology into curricula and instruction, increasing the ability of teachers to teach, and enabling students to reach challenging state academic standards</p>	<p>SAM, the <i>Scholastic Achievement Manager</i>, allows teachers and administrators to monitor program usage, assess progress, and determine needs by providing tools for managing student rosters; generating performance data reports at the individual, class, school, and district levels; locating useful resources for professional development and instruction; and selecting books at students’ reading and interest levels.</p> <p>SAM is the dashboard for supporting data-driven instruction, meeting AYP accountability requirements, and enabling district-wide data aggregation for teachers, administrators, and technology leaders. In SAM, <i>ReadAbout</i> reports serve specific purposes to meet the needs of administrators, teachers, students, and families.</p> <p>The SAM system facilitates differentiated instruction for all students by providing over 20 detailed reports on student achievement.</p> <p>Through SAM software, ReadAbout continually assesses each student’s level of reading performance. SAM generates real-time, detailed electronic reports that educators can use for progress monitoring and management purposes. The reports serve the needs of teachers and administrators by providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A variety of progress monitoring reports detailing student skill performance, text-level reading performance and progress, and vocabulary acquisition and performance ▪ Comprehensive information on student topic experience, including topic exposure, topic frequency, and topic completion ▪ Alerts and acknowledgments that provide important information on student success, potential problems, and weekly progress ▪ District and school-wide overviews of student participation and performance in the program

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<p>12. <u>Supporting resources:</u> A description of the supporting resources, such as services, software, other electronically delivered learning materials, and print resources, that will be acquired to ensure successful and effective uses of technology</p>	<p><i>ReadAbout</i> includes personalized software, independent reading cards, and teacher-directed lessons to differentiate instruction and practice for optimal learning. For students the program, components include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>ReadAbout Instructional Software</u>—Individualized software provides personalized reading comprehension and vocabulary practice, instruction, and support to students at all reading levels through 70 nonfiction topics. ▪ <u>Scholastic Reading Inventory Software</u>—<i>ReadAbout</i> software includes this placement and progress monitoring application that determines each student’s reading level based on the Lexile Framework ® for Reading. ▪ <u>ReadAbout SmartFile Cards</u>—The <i>ReadAbout</i> program includes a collection of 70 topic-specific SmartFiles. Each SmartFile features a leveled passage that shares a primary skill and vocabulary with its correlating software topic. Students read these cards independently and answer questions. <p>For teachers, <i>ReadAbout</i> includes a comprehensive kit to guide their instruction, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Topic Planner Guide</u>—A comprehensive guide to each of the 70 <i>ReadAbout</i> topics that includes vocabulary, critical thinking questions, ELL and writing support, and preview of the software content. ▪ <u>Know About ReadAbout (KARA) Guide</u>—Includes professional development and research foundations, implementation models, and an overview of online and print components ▪ <u>Assessment, Reports, and Differentiated Instruction (ARDI) Guide</u>—Provides valuable information about assessment, reports, and differentiated comprehension and vocabulary instruction. It also includes differentiated lessons for comprehension and vocabulary. ▪ <u>Bonus Card Stickers and Classroom Poster</u>—Colorful stickers reward student achievement. An exciting rendering of <i>ReadAbout</i> content is provided in a poster format to spark interest. ▪ <u>ReadAbout Software Manual</u>—Includes information about using the software is included in this detailed manual ▪ <u>SAM Quick Reference Guide</u>—Provides resources that help teachers get started with the <i>Scholastic Achievement Manager (SAM)</i> as well as information to help them set up their classrooms. ▪ <u>SAM Software Manual</u>—Provides information on using this powerful management system with the <i>ReadAbout</i> program.