

Common Core State Standards

English Language Arts

A majority of the nation's governors and chief state school officers, in conjunction with groups from education and business, have proposed **new internationally benchmarked standards** in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Critical thinking, problem solving, innovation, and collaboration have become the price of entry for every career, and yet nearly **two-thirds of American children are performing at the basic level or below** in language and mathematics. The job of education is to prepare students to succeed in the world, and the Common Core State standards are designed to give all American children this opportunity by incorporating best practices from high-performing countries.

Scholastic is uniquely positioned to help schools and districts **successfully implement the Common Core State Standards**. With **proven, technology-based literacy programs for students at all levels** of proficiency and comprehensive professional development, we stand ready to help you implement the Common Core State Standards and prepare for new, more rigorous assessments expected in 2014.

Your state has adopted the Common Core State Standards: **Now What?**

Transitioning to the Common Core State Standards: A Road Map for Planning, Professional Development, and Implementation

Scholastic Achievement Partners, the professional services arm of Scholastic Education, has developed a comprehensive service for leaders and teachers to facilitate a successful transition to the Common Core State Standards. Working collaboratively with your leadership team, we can help you:

- ✓ Build knowledge and buy-in around the new standards among your leaders and teachers
- ✓ Assess how your current standards align with the Common Core and build a plan to fill any significant gaps
- ✓ Formulate a plan to get your district ready for the new assessments expected in 2014
- ✓ Map current curriculum and instructional practices against the new expectations for college and career readiness and determine how to increase rigor in a systematic way
- ✓ Document the executional steps necessary to ensure that the new standards are implemented in a way that is practical, tactical, and classroom tested!

SCHOLASTIC
ACHIEVEMENT PARTNERS

Scholastic Achievement Partners is a joint venture of Scholastic Education, The International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE), and Math Solutions, the country's premier provider of math professional development. Together, we are able to offer schools and districts best-in-class professional development, coaching, and strategic planning that spans literacy, math, and leadership development.



The *only* English Language Arts program designed around the **Common Core State Standards**

Unlike other programs that may be retrofitted to meet the standards, *Expert 21* is the only *new* English Language Arts program created from the ground up with the foundational research and working drafts of the Common Core State Standards. Designed to ensure all students are college- and career-ready, *Expert 21* aligns to the substance *and* spirit of the new standards.

Diverse Texts That Help Students Build Knowledge, Explore Possibilities, and Broaden Perspectives

- Readings are a mix of 60% informational texts and 40% literature selections.
- Each workshop features the most diverse collection of genres, including short story, myth, play, magazine article, infographic, interview, and more. Web access offers an additional 125,000+ leveled nonfiction articles.
- Readings provoke critical thinking, discussion, help students read to analyze, synthesize, evaluate information and data, learn about the world they live in, and build understanding of different perspectives, cultures, and global issues.

Staircase of Increasing Text Complexity to Prepare All Students for College- and Career-Level Reading

- Qualitative: Levels of meaning, purpose, knowledge, and more will deepen in texts as students progress across workshops and courses.
- Quantitative: *Expert 21* incorporates the Lexile framework to ensure that complexity in sentence length, word frequency, and more grows each year.
- Reader and Task: Each workshop features an expert question, anchor video, and internship on a page to motivate students with a purpose for reading and build background and content-area knowledge.

Explicit Instruction and Practice in Writing Logical Arguments, Short and In-Depth Research Projects

- Direct instruction shows how to use data to make an argument while understanding and evaluating persuasive techniques, and supporting with evidence.
- Traits of Writing helps students sharpen their ideas, organization, sentence fluency, word choice, voice, use of conventions, and presentation.
- Student models and rubrics help develop the skills and self-monitoring habits of good writers.
- Expert Projects, real-world, performance-based activities, present research, writing, and presentation opportunities.
- Hundreds of additional project ideas and activities are presented online and in the Expert Files.

Daily Opportunities for Students to Listen, Reflect, Discuss, Collaborate, and Communicate

- Teacher's guide and professional development resources provide structured routines for student collaboration in pairs, small group, and whole class.
- Find explicit instruction on critical thinking skills: asking good questions, listening effectively, sharing feedback, reaching consensus, and more.
- Unique "Arc of Inquiry" engages students in real-world issues and provides daily opportunities to think, reflect, respond, and react through conversation and in writing.

Vocabulary Development Through a Mix of Conversations, Direct Instruction, Reading, and Writing

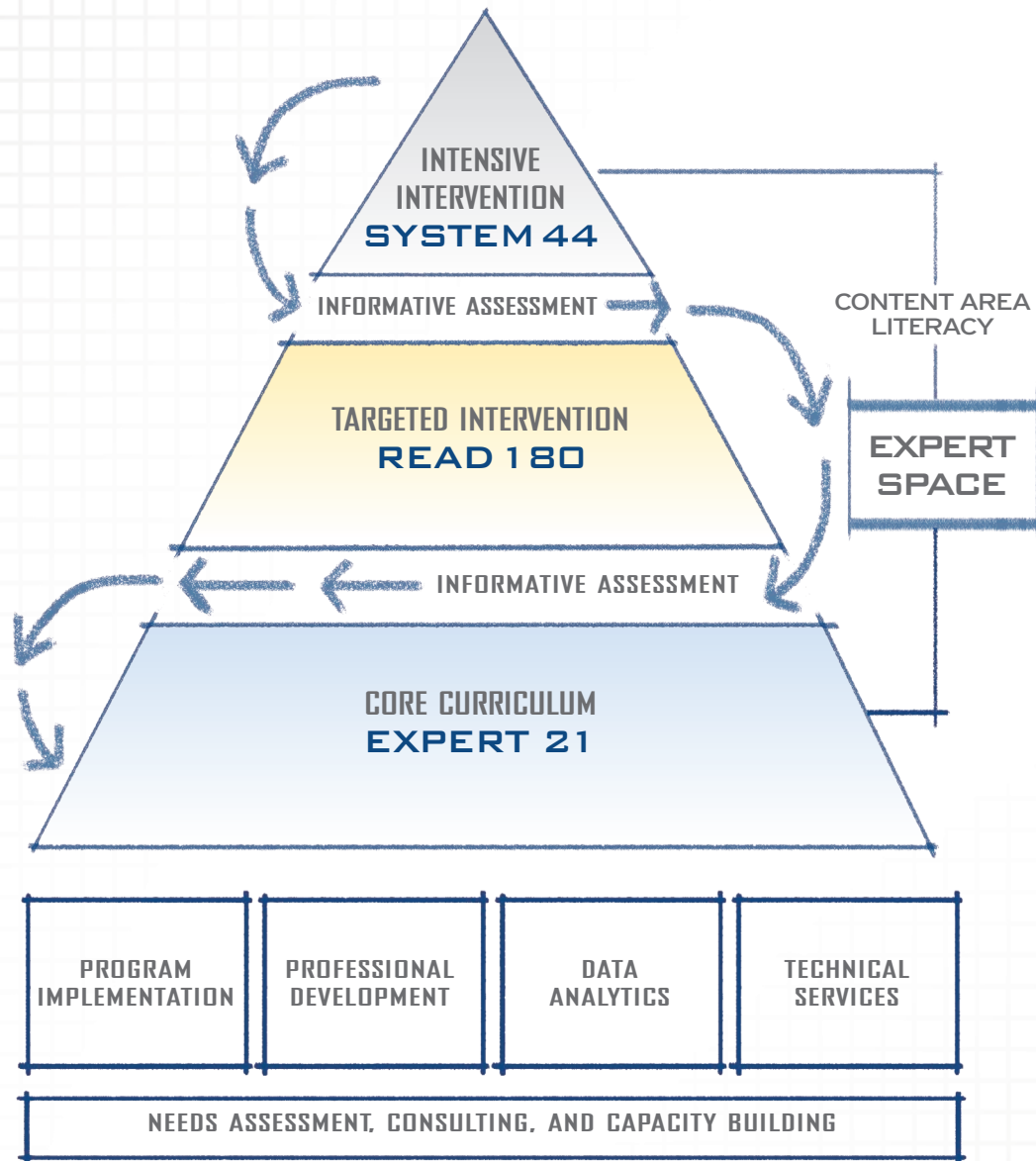
- Reading selections incorporate vocabulary instruction and skill development in academic language; author's purpose; context clues; multiple-meaning words; roots; suffixes; and base words.
- Proficiency of language is built through repeated readings of texts and daily opportunities for written response and academic discussions in small and whole group.

Embedded Instruction in 21st Century Skills and Competencies

- Seamless use of web-based technology and digital media builds background knowledge, develops research and writing skills, extends learning, and strengthens key 21st Century information literacy skills.
- Direct instruction in evaluating sources, email etiquette, creating a podcast, social networking, and more is included.

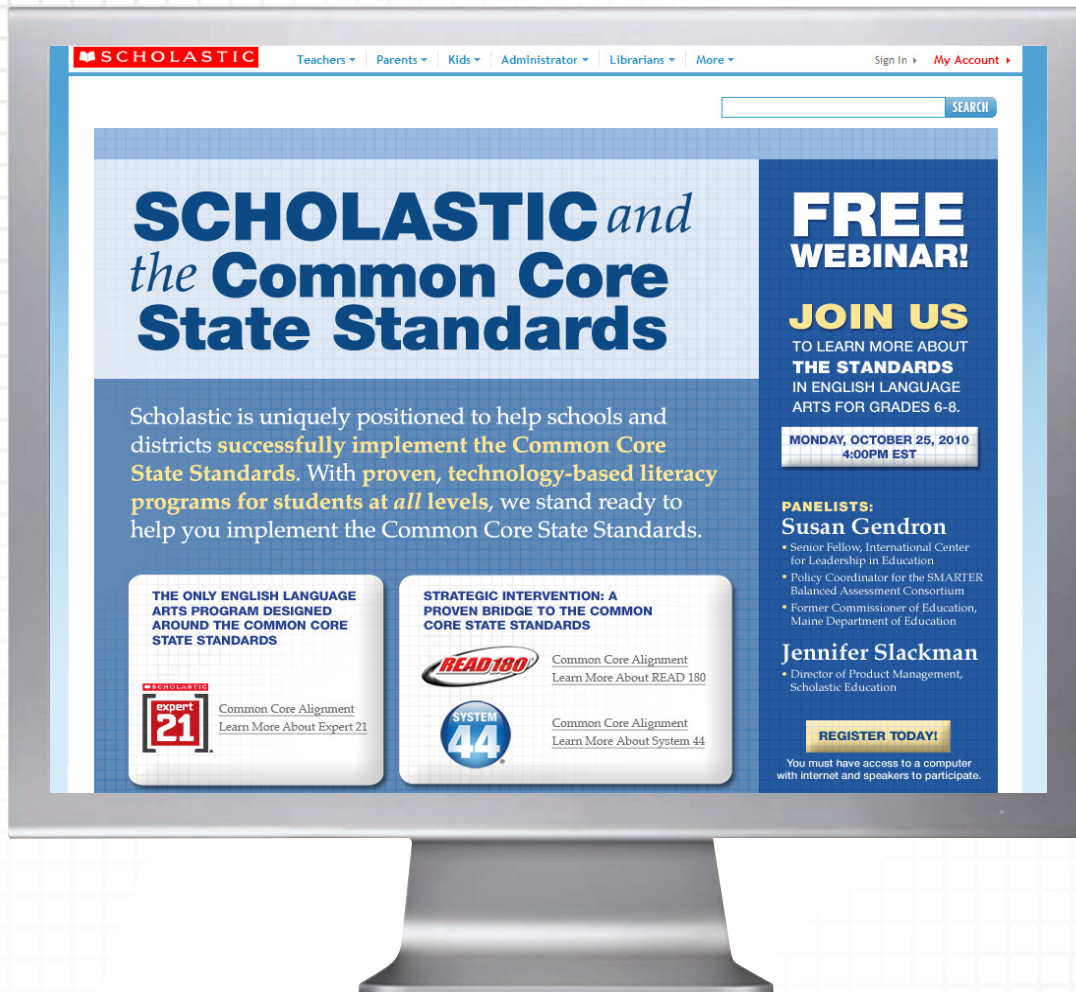
BLUEPRINT

FOR COMPREHENSIVE LITERACY IMPROVEMENT



While the Common Core State Standards do not specifically address professional development, the implications are clear—in order for students to receive a world-class education, they must be surrounded by effective teachers and leaders who are working together for a common goal: improved student achievement. **Scholastic's Blueprint for Literacy Learning is supported by a foundation** that includes effective teaching, strong leadership development, and **technical resources** to actively manage and implement a literacy plan **that will raise student achievement**. These capacity-building, customized resources offer districts and schools in-person and online training and support to meet their specific needs. From program implementation training to ongoing professional development and literacy improvement initiatives, **Scholastic can customize a plan of action** that includes comprehensive research-based literacy professional development with cross-curricular literacy strategies to support the Common Core State Standards.

FREE WEBINAR!



To learn more about how Scholastic can help you implement the Common Core Standards, visit us at www.scholastic.com/commoncore or contact your Scholastic Representative.

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