



## FUNDING ALIGNMENT

### Race to the Top – EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE

The RTT-Early Learning Challenge will help States and districts provide more children from birth to age five from low-income families with access to high-quality Early Learning and Development Programs. RTT-ELC grants will focus on key reforms, including aligning early childhood resources and systems and improving early learning and development standards and assessment, program standards, tiered rating and improvement systems, and early childhood educators. The chart below shows how *Scholastic Big Day for PreK* is uniquely aligned to support Early Learning and Development Programs participating in the RTT-Early Learning Challenge.

RTT-ELC Selection Criteria	<i>Scholastic Big Day for PreK</i>
<p><b>Using statewide, high-quality Early Learning and Development Standards</b></p>	<p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> is a comprehensive curriculum informed by an extensive body of research and aligned to Common Core, State and Head Start standards that are proven to prepare students for kindergarten. Expert authors have infused the curriculum with instructional methods that promote development at multiple levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social-emotional</li> <li>▪ Language and literacy</li> <li>▪ Mathematics, science, and technology</li> <li>▪ Social Studies</li> <li>▪ Health, physical development, and safety</li> <li>▪ Home-school connection</li> </ul>
<p><b>Understanding the status of children’s learning and development at kindergarten entry</b></p>	<p>The <i>Scholastic Early Childhood Inventory</i> (SECI) is a child-friendly, formal one-to-one assessment that helps teachers monitor children’s progress throughout the year. SECI can be administered three times a year and monitors progress in four Key domains that have been shown to be most predictive of kindergarten readiness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oral Language Development</li> <li>▪ Phonological Awareness</li> <li>▪ Alphabet Recognition</li> <li>▪ Mathematics</li> </ul> <p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> also includes developmental continuums to help educators monitor children’s progress along the path to kindergarten readiness. These Pathways to Readiness continuums provide age-appropriate research-based benchmarks to help monitor children’s developmental progress in five key domains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social-Emotional Development</li> <li>▪ Oral Language Development</li> <li>▪ Emergent Reading</li> <li>▪ Emergent Writing</li> <li>▪ Mathematics Development</li> </ul>

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	<p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> includes daily, ongoing informal assessments to help educators recognize children’s strengths, learning needs, and developmental milestones. The following informal assessments can be downloaded, in English or Spanish, from Teacher Space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Circle Time/Story Time Observation Guides</li> <li>▪ Small Group Observation Guides</li> <li>▪ Clipboard Observation Guide</li> <li>▪ PreK 360 Record</li> <li>▪ Anecdotal Records</li> </ul>
<p><b>Identifying and addressing the health, behavioral, and developmental needs of High-Need Children to improve school readiness</b></p>	<p>It is important that children develop the behaviors and traits that will enable them to function productively and collaboratively in school and society. Each day, children have multiple, guided opportunities to collaborate in groups, resolve conflicts, and form friendships, as well as to develop self-regulation, planning, and organizational skills that aid learning. The promotion of social-emotional development is integrated into the curriculum throughout the day and in varying contexts. Each <i>Big Day for PreK</i> theme includes a month-long focus on a relevant social-emotional area—Cooperation, Kindness, Responsibility, Respect, Attention, Initiative, Self-Awareness, Curiosity, and Persistence. The social-emotional theme is also reinforced daily through <i>Make Learning Bigger</i> activities that connect the theme with learning in the content areas. Throughout the program, teachers are guided to help students develop the language and vocabulary associated with social-emotional development.</p>
<p><b>Engaging and Supporting Families</b></p>	<p>Young children benefit when the school forges a respectful partnership with families and communicates regularly with them about what children are learning and how they are progressing. <i>Big Day for PreK</i> honors children’s families as an integral part of the learning process and helps families extend children’s learning at home.</p> <p><i>Big Day Online Family Space</i> is the only bilingual communication tool that offers families a virtual window into their child’s learning and enables all families to extend learning at home. Parents and caregivers are able to log in to Family Space from any computer with an Internet connection to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stay informed about classroom learning</li> <li>▪ Read weekly tips to build literacy at home</li> <li>▪ Visit <i>BookFlix</i> to build literacy at home</li> <li>▪ Anticipate developmental milestones with the Kindergarten Readiness Indicators</li> <li>▪ Download books and educational resources</li> </ul>
<p><b>Supporting Early Childhood Educators in improving their knowledge, skills, and abilities</b></p>	<p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> includes a variety of resources to support every teacher’s growth as a professional. Professional development is embedded into the Professional Handbook</p>

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	<p>and Teaching Guides, and through an interactive, online professional development course.</p> <p>All teachers of <i>Big Day for PreK</i> receive access to an online professional development course, <i>Developing Foundations for Early Childhood Success</i> through Scholastic RED. This course focuses on developing teachers' knowledge of children's development in the social, emotional, and behavioral domains, in communication and language, early literacy , and early mathematics.</p> <p>The Professional Handbook includes research-based guidance on modifying instruction for diverse learners, classroom management, engaging families, and assessment. Best practices for instruction across curriculum domains are presented in the Professional Handbook and are embedded throughout each Teaching Guide.</p>