

My Books Take-Home and Summer Reading Book Packs Meet Priorities of the Innovative Approaches to Literacy Grant!

According to the US Department of Education, the *Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL)* program supports high-quality programs designed to develop and improve literacy skills for children and students from birth through 12th grade within the attendance boundaries of high-need local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools. The Department intends to support innovative programs that:

- **Promote early literacy** for young children
- **Motivate older children** to read
- **Increase student achievement** by using school libraries

The Department suggests that these projects may include:

- Distributing free books to children and their families
- Offering high-quality childhood literacy activities
- Fostering collaborative joint professional development opportunities for teachers and school library personnel

Please visit

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/face/funding.htm>

for information about *other* qualifying Scholastic programs that are written in “grant-friendly” text. Just cut and paste information, based on your application’s needs!

Please visit the Federal Register at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-07-11/pdf/2012-16930.pdf> for all requirements of the IAL Grant. These include Selection Criteria, Priorities, page limits, formatting requirements, and the submission URL.


The application deadline is on or before August 10, 2012.


By leveraging Scholastic programs and services together, all IAL Priorities can be met!


The following chart shows how *My Books* meets the Priorities of the *Innovative Approaches to Literacy Grant* to increase student literacy, family engagement, and educator effectiveness. The criteria are drawn from the official IAL grant page, which can be found at:


<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovapproaches-literacy/applicant.html>

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR APPLICATION MUST BE CUSTOMIZED TO THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF YOUR AGENCY.

| Priorities of the IAL Grant |  <i>My Books</i> |
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| <p><u>Absolute Priority:</u></p> <p>High-quality plan for innovative approaches to literacy that include book distribution, childhood literacy activities, or both, and that is supported by at least one study that meets the definition of scientifically valid research (as defined in the US Department of Education notice).</p> | <p><i>My Books Take-Home Book Packs</i> and <i>My Books Summer Take-Home Reading Packs for Grades PreK-12</i> provide high-quality, authentic literature in a wide variety of subjects and genres. The parent and community activity packs foster family involvement and reinforce at-home learning. Book packs provide components to support a balanced literacy program.</p> <p>Scholastic has designed <i>My Books</i> that are purposefully discounted to support schools and districts in their efforts to provide free, high-quality paperback books to children. Book Packs can be customized to meet district messaging and distribution needs.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(continued)</i></p> |

| Priorities of the IAL Grant |  My Books |
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| <p><u>Absolute Priority, continued</u></p> | <p>Take-Home and Summer Take-Home Book Packs feature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4- and 8-book Take-Home Packs with title-specific activity sheets for each book• Specialty book packs featuring titles that focus on STEM, Health and Wellness, School Readiness, Literary Elements, and Genre Studies• High-interest and award-winning titles for Grades PreK-12• Activities for students and parents that support Common Core State Standards and reinforce at-home learning• Engagement tracking tools to help assess how kids and families are interacting with the books and activities• One Math title in every Bestselling nonfiction K-5 Book Pack <p>The use of Scholastic books to raise student achievement is backed by an extensive body of scientific research. For instance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Assessment of Educational Progress Report (2002) states that “Students with well-designed libraries interact more with books, spend more time reading, demonstrate more positive attitudes toward reading, and exhibit higher levels of reading achievement.”• Children from a literacy-rich home environment enter school with more knowledge of reading than other children. (National Center for Education Statistics)• Findings show higher-than-average scores among students who reported more types of reading material at home:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 68% of students who had three or more different types of reading materials at home performed at the proficient level• Students with two or fewer types performed at the basic level• Students with four types of reading material at home performed at the highest level (Donahue, et al. 2001)• Regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic level, or previous achievement, children who read four or more books per semester fare better on reading comprehension tests than their peers. By increasing reading minutes, elementary students can avoid the reading losses that normally occur over those months. (Kim, 2004)• When children are provided with books at the end of the regular school day [to take home and keep], as many as 50 percent not only maintain their skills, but actually make reading gains. (Allington, 2007)• “Access to books in the home is the key to academic success. And the children of lesser-educated parents benefit the most—having as few as 20 books in the home has a significant impact on propelling a child to a higher level of education. And the more books you add, the greater the benefit.” (<i>Research in Social Stratification and Mobility</i>) <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(continued)</i></p> |

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| <p><u>Absolute Priority, continued</u></p> | <p>Research on the “Summer Slide”</p> <p>Research tells us that, <u>without practice, students lose reading skills over the summer months</u>, and that children from lower-income families lose the most. This results in children who typically score lower on reading tests at the end of the summer than they do at the beginning – a phenomenon known as the “summer slide.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-thirds of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. (Alexander, Entwisle, & Olson, 2007) • Regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic level, or previous achievement, <u>children who read four or more books over the summer fare better on reading comprehension tests in the fall</u> than their peers who read one or no books over the summer. Elementary students can avoid reading losses that normally occur over those months. (Kim, 2004) • When children are provided with books at the end of the regular school year [to take home and read during the summer months], as many as 50 percent not only maintain their skills, but <u>actually make reading gains</u>. (Allington, 2007) |
| <p><u>Competitive Preference Priority 1:</u></p> <p>Turning Around Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools</p> | <p>Scholastic My Books benefit all students, including low-achieving students and those at risk of not meeting state standards through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade-level books that motivate students to successfully gain reading skills while learning about age-appropriate topics • Meaningful reading practice that target students’ interests so that they are not playing “catch up” when reading in the content areas • Exposing students to fiction and nonfiction as they build vocabulary and strengthen their reading comprehension skills • Activities sheets that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include graphic organizers, puzzles, and literacy tips for parents to use with their children ○ Reinforce comprehension, vocabulary, and writing skills • Offering motivational Book Packs in Spanish to ELL students to help them gain strong literacy skills in their native language and become better prepared to acquire a second language |
| <p><u>Competitive Preference Priority 2:</u></p> <p>Technology</p> | <p>Summer Reading Challenge Website!</p> <p>Families and their children can visit the Scholastic Summer Challenge website, www.scholastic.com/summer, to keep reading exciting throughout the summer!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can log their reading minutes and compete in the <i>Read for the World Record Event</i>, as well as win rewards. • Educators are able to register students and track their progress and progress by their school. • Parents can find tips and booklists, as well as track their children’s reading progress online and on the phone. |

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| <p><u>Competitive Preference Priority 3:</u> Improving Early Learning Outcomes</p> | <p>My Books Take-Home Book Packs and My Books Summer Reading Take-Home Book Packs are available for preschool children. Paperback books introduce early literacy skills, build language skills, and can prepare infants and toddlers for PreK and Kindergarten school readiness. My Books offers a wide variety of age-appropriate topics in fiction and nonfiction, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Alphabet• Counting• Rhyming books• Colors• Shapes• The five senses <p>The <i>School Readiness Theme Pack</i> also includes a parent reading tip.</p> <p>The PreK activity sheets include such activities as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drawing title-related pictures to show comprehension• Cutting out paper finger puppets to retell a story• Learning book-handling skills with parent• Cutting out pictures to finish a sentence and reinforce vocabulary |
| <p><u>Competitive Preference Priority 4:</u> Serving Rural LEAs</p> | <p>My Books Take-Home Book Packs and My Books Summer Reading Take-Home Book Packs bring a variety of activities that can enrich the home educational environment, while increasing student literacy. These Scholastic programs can help children build a home library in their rural community, where the nearest public library may be many miles away.</p> |

For more information, please contact your Local Account Executive and visit the websites listed on page one. For immediate response, please call 866-757-5163 or write SCCG@scholastic.com.