SCHOLASTIC

R | E | A | L |

READ EXCEL ACHIEVE LEAD™

Supports the Transformation Model of School Improvement Grants

In general, the purpose of School Improvement Grants (SIG) is to increase student achievement and teacher/principal effectiveness in the persistently lowest-achieving Title I or Title I-eligible schools. The goal of President Obama's administration is to turnaround the lowest 5% of schools in the next five years. **The chart below shows how Scholastic R.E.A. L, a community engagement and student mentoring program, aligns to two of the required parts of SIG under the Transformation Model.** The criteria are drawn from the Final Requirements for School Improvement Grants (Amended in January 2010), which can be found at http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/faq.html. Please contact your state Department of Education for information about all SIG criteria and available funds.

Key Strategies under the SIG Transformation Model	📖 *Scholastic R.E.A.L.*
1. Establishing schedules and strategies that provide increased learning time *(required)*	*Scholastic R.E.A.L.* is devoted to giving school districts the tools needed to recruit, encourage, and equip mentors from the community to inspire students and build literacy skills. *R.E.A.L.* mentors read aloud in selected Grades K-7 classrooms for an hour each month. The program can also be flexibly implemented before or after school, as needed.

The program provides engaging, grade-appropriate fiction and nonfiction books in print. Fiction titles feature main characters and plots that demonstrate creative problem solving and resiliency. Nonfiction titles include biographies of inspirational figures. The *R.E.A.L.* book collections celebrate diversity and strong values. Each book comes with two guides:

- Student Guide provides practical ways to "look for evidence" and "read for meaning," build further interest, and invite deeper thinking. It contains engaging activities that help readers connect their own reading, thinking, and writing about each title.

- Mentor Guide is easy-to-use and designed for mentors who are not educators. They include book summaries, read-aloud tips, discussions ideas, and ways to make the most of the time that mentors spend with their students.

(continued) |

If you have any questions about

Scholastic R.E.A.L.

or would like to place an order, please call your sales representative at **800-387-1437,** fax to **877-242-5865; or visit:** www.scholastic.com/scholasticreal

Key Strategies under the SIG Transformation Model	📖 Scholastic R.E.A.L.
Establishing schedules and strategies that provide increased learning time, Continued	After mentors share the books in the classrooms or after school, students receive their own copies to bring home. The **R.E.A.L.** program: • Increases students' motivation to read • Makes relevant connections to the real world • Enriches the school through ongoing, consistent community involvement Research findings support community mentoring and the strategies that **R.E.A.L.** uses as a way to increase student achievement. For example: • High levels of parent involvement in African-American communities correlate with improved reading achievement. (Armor, 1976) • Discussion of personal relationships and social issues can lead to closer mentor-youth relationships and more positive outcomes for youth. (Small, S.A., 2008) • Effective mentoring sessions involve regular, structured activities. (DuBois, Hollaway, Valentine, & Cooper, 2002)
2. Providing ongoing mechanisms for family and community engagement *(required)*	The **R.E.A.L.** program provides students with structured, literacy mentoring support over the course of the school year. Mentors read and discuss up to seven books during their monthly, one-hour class visits. **R.E.A.L.** uses a simple, yet highly effective model for providing school districts with an ongoing mechanism for family and community engagement: 1. Recruit – The program provides tips for how to find volunteer mentors who are willing to share their life experiences as they enjoy reading a book with students. **R.E.A.L.** demonstrates in concrete ways how mentors can motivate students to read by sharing the place that reading holds in their own lives. Many community organizations can be tapped, but the most reliable pool of potential volunteers may come from school families. 2. Read – Students gain new models for thinking more deeply as they listen to mentors read aloud and talk together about issues from the book. The Scholastic **R.E.A.L.** titles have been selected by educators for their power to captivate students' attention. All students receive up to seven books that they can share with their families and use to create a home library. *(continued)*

Key Strategies under the SIG Transformation Model	📖 Scholastic R.E.A.L.
Providing ongoing mechanisms for family and community engagement, Continued	3. <u>Inspire</u> – Students are delighted by the mentor visits, and everyone is enriched – students, mentors, and the community. Through this program, mentors provide the motivation to students to *read* and inspire them in their discussions to *excel.* **R.E.A.L.** mentors help build and broaden the culture of literacy that empowers students to achieve and lead in today's world. **R.E.A.L.** provides districts with the implementation resources needed to build a successful mentoring system that supports a culture of literacy. An easy-to-use Implementation Guide covers all the essentials, including: • Descriptions of program components and how to use them • Tips for organizing the program in schools, recruiting mentors, and celebrating success • Reproducible resources for starting and organizing the program—from a mentor application to sample letters • Suggestions and tools for communicating with all participants With **R.E.A.L.,** school districts have the opportunity to form strategic community partnerships that are long-lasting and meaningful.