

Race to the Top Comprehensive Education Reform

The purpose of the **Race to the Top Fund** is to encourage and reward States that are (1) creating the conditions for education innovation and reform; (2) achieving significant improvement in student outcomes; (3) closing achievement gaps; (4) improving high school graduation rates; and (5) implementing ambitious plans in the four core education reform areas.

The mission of Scholastic Education is to help districts and schools develop confident, successful learners who are prepared for college and careers. We combine an understanding of how to motivate students with a long-held partnership with educators to create instruction, intervention and assessment tools that accelerate learning for all students. Our programs and services are informed by America’s top educators and researchers, helping us develop programs that truly work to improve reading skills.

Scholastic Expert 21 Supports the Race to the Top Initiative

Expert 21 is a comprehensive English Language Arts program designed to accelerate students in grades 6-9 from Basic to Proficient by preparing them with the literacy expertise to thrive in the 21st Century. Expert 21 teaches reading, writing, and thinking for the 21st Century by carefully weaving a comprehensive set of skills strands throughout the program. Reading selections emphasize development of interdisciplinary knowledge in English, Reading, Language Arts, History, Science, Geography, and the Arts. The 21 Book emphasizes themes in Health Literacy, Civic Literacy, Financial Literacy, and Global Awareness.

Core Education Reform Areas	Scholastic Expert 21: Recommended Curriculum and Aligned Programs and Services
Standards and Assessments	<p>Increasing student achievement in (at a minimum) reading/language arts and mathematics</p> <p>Expert 21 is designed with the understanding that success in today’s information-based society requires a strong foundation of content-area knowledge and basic literacy skills, coupled with a comprehensive set of technical, cognitive, and interpersonal skills—summarized by the term “21st Century Skills.” Expert 21 provides comprehensive, explicit Instruction in reading comprehension and metacognitive strategies to prepare students to be proficient and thoughtful readers across the content areas. The program provides a systematic approach to vocabulary instruction that builds students’ vocabulary knowledge through direct instruction and gives students tools to learn new words on their own. Writing instruction in Expert 21 creates a solid foundation for success in writing on demand and constructed response writing tasks, as well real-world applications such as multimedia presentations and Web pages. Interactive productivity tools help students plan and complete assignments. Every student has access to a suite of personal learning tools to set goals, synthesize, organize and cite information, and build essential skills.</p> <p>Decreasing achievement gaps between subgroups in reading/language arts and mathematics</p> <p>Expert 21 materials are designed to reflect the principles of Universal Design for Learning, ensuring equal access for all students. Multiple means of content representation are provided through video and audio experiences, graphics, and images that accompany readings, and online and paper-based texts. Students are allowed multiple means of expressing what they have learned, including whole- and small-group discussion, journal writing, graphic organizers, written compositions, Expert Projects, and both digital and hard-copy assessments.</p> <p>Increasing graduation rates</p> <p>The Alliance for Excellent Education reports that students with below-level reading skills are twice as likely to drop out of school as those who read at or above the appropriate level of reading proficiency. Expert 21 is designed to engage young adolescent learners by establishing a reason to read from the outset. The Expert Questions provoke students’ curiosity and motivate them to find out more. The Anchor Media build students’ background knowledge so that they can more easily access the content and feel successful when they begin to read. Students can recognize themselves in the multicultural readings that reflect ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity and focus on topics relevant to their lives.</p>
Data Systems to Support Instruction	<p>Using data to improve instruction</p> <p>Expert 21 includes automated reporting from a Web-based management system that supports teachers as they differentiate Instruction, monitor progress, and implement Response to Intervention (RTI) efforts. The Scholastic Achievement Manager (SAM) facilitates differentiated instruction for all students by providing detailed reports on student achievement. The Student Progress Report documents reading skill improvement and overall progress as indicated by Lexile®, and mastery of skills in curriculum-embedded assessment. The Summary Skills Report aggregates an entire classroom’s skill mastery, providing teachers with valuable information about how to group students and indicating skills that require extra focus. Teachers are directed to use SAM for more than 500 resources for differentiating instruction.</p>

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<p>Great Teachers and Leaders</p>	<p>Improving teacher and principal effectiveness Scholastic prepares teachers and administrators to become effective with Expert 21’s intensive acceleration features through multiple pathways including in-person implementation training, follow-up training, online professional development and digital resources. Professional resources embedded in the program also support educators at point of use throughout the instructional plan. Reporting features of the management system enable teachers to target specific student gaps with intensive, individualized instruction to maximize program effectiveness. Principals and other literacy leaders can evaluate the effectiveness of the instructional model through continuous and automatic assessment and reporting capabilities.</p> <p>Establish clear approaches to measuring student growth The Expert 21 program continually monitors student progress, collecting data that reflects student abilities, strengths, progress, and weaknesses. Data is then presented in actionable reports. Teachers and administrators can see data in real time and generate progress-monitoring reports that correspond to the grading periods.</p> <p>Provide effective, data-informed professional development and coaching to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gathering and analyzing data Scholastic implementation specialists train both teachers and administrators in analyzing data that is automatically captured by the management system. ● Designing instructional strategies for improvement Each Expert 21 workshop follows a consistent pattern designed to lead students through an inquiry process. Students begin by exploring an Expert Question crafted by Dr. Jeffrey Wilhelm, the country’s leading voice on motivation and engagement in reading instruction. Classic and contemporary fiction offers adolescents a mirror to themselves and a window to the world. Selected for their ability to provoke critical thinking, each literary reading in Expert 21 helps students develop the comprehension and literary analysis skills they’ll need to be lifelong readers. ● Differentiating instruction Expert 21 includes embedded support for differentiated instruction. Through the Teacher’s Edition, teachers are guided on how to differentiate for varying levels of proficiency in the classroom. In addition, teachers are provided with explicit guidance on how to make instruction accessible to English-language learners. Prompts throughout the Teacher’s Edition are aligned to Response to Intervention (RTI). Instruction is included for all three RTI tiers, English-language learners and students in Special Education. Teachers are also directed to the Scholastic Achievement Manager (SAM) for additional resources for differentiating instruction. ● Creating school environments supportive of data-informed decisions Teachers will embrace and support data-informed instructional decision-making when they understand how the Scholastic Achievement Manager (SAM) can easily maximize their instruction by targeting the needs of each individual child. Results will be experienced immediately by both students and teachers. ● Designing instruction to meet the specific needs of high-need students Professional development and implementation training provides educators with the information and techniques they need to give each student a clear instructional path based on individual needs. Universal access features and multi-modal learning, as well as language support, help teachers reach and teach all high-need students.
<p>Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools</p>	<p>Identify the persistently low-achieving schools, and support LEAs in turning around these schools by implementing one of the four school intervention models—turnaround model, restart model, school closure, or transformation model.</p> <p>In partnership with the International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE), Scholastic works with district leaders to ensure they have the information necessary to be accountable for success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School turnaround planning and ongoing consultation—Drawing on its national network of best practices, ICLE collaborates with school and district leaders to conduct a needs analysis and document a theory of action for school turnaround planning. ● Custom reporting on fidelity of implementation metrics—Scholastic Partnership Planning delivers a year-long schedule of metrics that will allow school and district leaders to evaluate the ongoing fidelity of curricular program implementation. ● Ongoing progress monitoring and data analysis—Scholastic Data Analytics professionals plan and deliver a year-long schedule of data review, analysis and course correction strategies. ● Rubrics for evaluating classroom practice—Scholastic Implementation Services provide district and school leaders with clear rubrics for evaluating classroom practice aligned with curriculum programs, along with coaching on required remediation strategies.