

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 System 44 Supports the Race to the Top Initiative

System 44 is a foundational reading program designed for the most challenged struggling readers in Grades 3-12. Intentionally metacognitive, *System 44* helps students understand that the English language is a finite system of 44 sounds and 26 letters that can be mastered. A combination of software-based and teacher-led instruction provides the student with adaptive, individualized learning as well as teacher-mediated direct instruction. *System 44* combines the very best thinking on research-based phonics instruction for older students with the power of adaptive technology and age-appropriate, supportive fiction and nonfiction text.

Core Education Reform Areas	Scholastic System 44: 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><i>System 44</i> is designed so that the teacher, technology, and texts work together to deliver highly engaging, comprehensive, research-based instructional content to the older struggling reader. Through a combination of teacher-led and software-based instruction, the <i>System 44</i> student is guided along a systematic path from phonemic awareness to fluent reading.</p> <p><i>System 44</i> harnesses the power of research-based software that combines learning theory, pedagogical principles, and integrated media technology in a unique way. The software uses adaptive and audio technology to customize and scaffold individual skill practice and application in phoneme manipulation, word recognition, vocabulary, spelling, comprehension, and fluency. The software offers consistent and targeted support with nonjudgmental and individualized coaching.</p> <p>Decreasing achievement gaps between subgroups in reading/language arts and mathematics</p> <p>In <i>System 44</i> differentiated and individualized instruction are achieved by the integration of multiple assessments, multiple entry points, adaptive computer technology, and targeted instructional materials and strategies. Teachers can thus create learning environments for multiple purposes to meet the needs of individual students. Two distinct tracks in the software, Standard and Fast-Track, further individualize instruction with adaptive pacing, allowing students to skip content for which they already show mastery and focus more closely on their specific areas of need. Additionally, the software’s supportive coaching and immediate, corrective feedback help ensure that struggling or challenged students do not feel uncomfortable about their pace for not mastering specific skills—even when that pace is slower than that of their classmates.</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. <i>System 44</i> has been designed to draw students into reading and increase their intrinsic motivation to read. <i>System 44</i> Library books and videos are high-interest, age-appropriate, relevant to students’ lives, and able to generate and sustain student interest. All library books help students set a purpose for reading, making the reading activity more meaningful. In the software, on-screen mentors sustain the learner’s engagement and interest by scaffolding, encouraging, and reinforcing his or her efforts. Throughout the program, reading materials are carefully matched to students’ current reading levels as they progress through the program, ensuring that they experience success while being appropriately challenged.</p>
Data Systems to Support Instruction	<p>Using data to improve instruction</p> <p>The <i>System 44</i> adaptive software automatically and continuously collects data on student performance. Every click of the mouse, including the speed of that click, provides valuable data on student accuracy and fluency. The <i>System 44</i> algorithm uses this data to customize the pacing, instructional load, and content for each individual student, ensuring instructional time is optimized. The <i>System 44</i> software regularly checks for mastery and adapts instruction. As students complete a cycle of instruction, the software measures a student’s mastery of automaticity and either promotes the student to the next instructional topic, or guides the student through additional instruction and practice with fresh content.</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 System 44'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 the program's continuous and automatic assessment and reporting capabilities.</p> <p>Establish clear approaches to measuring student growth The System 44 Software 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 System 44 frees the teacher from many time-consuming tasks, provides the teacher with data to inform instruction, and supports the teacher in scaffolding and differentiating instruction. Teachers receive a rich curriculum of skills instruction, point-of-use professional development, a variety of assessment tools, and reports that link to resources for creating learning environments for multiple purposes, including acceleration, improvement, and reinforcement. ● Differentiating instruction System 44 utilizes a teaching system that provides a clear instructional path for Whole- and Small-Group instruction, integrated professional development, and resources for accessing students and differentiating instruction. Comprehensive teaching support ensures all teachers can differentiate instruction with confidence. ● Creating school environments supportive of data-informed decisions Teachers will embrace and support data-informed instructional decision-making when they understand how the <i>Scholastic Achievement Manager (SAM)</i> 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 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.