



Scholastic Reading Counts!™

Aligns to 21st Century Community Learning Centers Criteria


The following chart details how **Scholastic Reading Counts!** can support the development of a *21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)* program. The criteria are drawn from the federal *21st Century Community Learning Centers Non-Regulatory Guidance* (February 2003).

Key Criteria for 21st CCLC Programs	 Scholastic Reading Counts! v. 3.0
<p>1. Activities that provide remedial education and academic enrichment to improve academic achievement</p>	<p>Scholastic Reading Counts! is a computer-based, reading motivation program that provides remediation and academic enrichment activities designed to raise student achievement in grades K-12.</p> <p>The Reading Counts! program includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A library of over 33,000 engaging, leveled fiction and nonfiction books from hundreds of publishers. ▪ A collection of over 33,000 computerized quizzes that test student comprehension and that can be customized to meet individual student needs. ▪ The <i>Scholastic Management Suite</i>™, which provides the instructional staff with tools to monitor student progress and manage an independent reading program, as well as data to guide instruction. <p>These elements of Scholastic Reading Counts! directly benefit students who need remediation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leveled books that allow them to read with success and with the appropriate amount of challenge ▪ Immediate feedback on quiz results ▪ Personalized congratulations screens, which can be printed, for passing quizzes ▪ Achievement certificates and other rewards ▪ <i>Auto-Alerts</i> that notify teachers when students are struggling ▪ Length of quizzes customized to accommodate attention deficit students and those with other special needs ▪ Flexibility of taking quizzes on audio books ▪ Opportunities for shared reading experiences with “book buddies” and in class <p>Students in the Reading Counts! program read more and become better readers. They develop fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and test-taking skills.</p> <p>Reading Counts! provides books and quizzes in a variety of topics and genres that can enrich a language arts program. Students read classics, poetry, multicultural texts, favorite authors, award winners, drama, series, history, biographies, and other fiction and nonfiction. Books and quizzes are available that can be integrated into curricula in subject areas other than language arts, such as math, science, and social studies.</p>


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<p>2. Activities for limited English proficient students that emphasize language skills and academic achievement</p>	<p>Reading Counts! provides English Language Learners with the motivation and practice they need to develop essential language skills and improve their reading achievement. The program offers limited English proficient students a successful reading experience by providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leveled books that give the appropriate amount of reading challenge ▪ High interest/ intervention books ▪ Spanish books ▪ Administration of Spanish and English quizzes for the same book ▪ <i>Auto-Alerts</i>, which notify teachers if the student is struggling ▪ Immediate feedback on quiz results ▪ Reports that allow teachers to assess student progress and adjust reading instruction ▪ Shared reading with partners and in class
<p>3. Activities involving telecommunications and technology education programs</p>	<p>Scholastic Reading Counts! effectively uses technology to raise student achievement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Throughout the year, students take computerized quizzes to test comprehension of books they have read. ▪ Quiz settings can be adjusted for number of questions and passing level so that students are challenged, yet successful. ▪ Students answer different questions each time they retake a quiz. ▪ Participants view instant scores and congratulations screens when they pass a quiz. ▪ Students use the program's on-screen <i>Read-O-Meter</i> to rate the books they read, fostering increased ownership and development of reading preferences. <p>Teachers use Reading Counts! software to help students increase their proficiency in these ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Computer-generated reports give initial student progress and allow staff to monitor progress during the school year. ▪ Staff can intervene with <i>Auto-Alerts</i> and <i>Alert Reports</i>. ▪ <i>Book Expert</i> helps staff to identify books that tie into curriculum units. ▪ Teachers write own quizzes, if desired, on books, textbook chapters, or other instructional materials. ▪ Staff members share computer-generated individual student progress reports with parents. ▪ Teachers can print out reading lists based on what students are reading, their interests and reading levels, and curriculum themes and topics. ▪ Reading Counts! software automatically collates data. ▪ Student data can be exported to share with other programs.


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<p>4. Activities to promote parental involvement and family literacy</p>	<p>Parental involvement is an integral part of a Reading Counts! program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parent Letters, available in Spanish and English, describe the program and list ways to encourage reading at home. ▪ Parents co-sign their child's Personal Goal statements. ▪ Test results and progress reports are shared with parents during conference times or are sent home. ▪ Parents support reading at home by reading aloud the leveled books students choose and promoting reading for pleasure. ▪ Parents can reinforce their children's successes by posting printouts of their personalized congratulations screens that they receive for passing a quiz. <p>Reading Counts! supports family literacy by providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adult literacy titles for older readers who are measured in the lower Lexile[®] level of reading proficiency. ▪ Valuable progress reports that track learning gains for all family members participating in the center's Reading Counts! program. ▪ Data export capabilities that allow a list of the center's available quizzes to be posted to the school's or learning center's web site.
<p>5. Programs that provide assistance to students who have been truant, suspended, or expelled to allow the students to improve their academic achievement</p>	<p>Scholastic Reading Counts! addresses the problems of students who are trapped in a cycle of failure by providing them with many opportunities to experience success from the start:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ After reading books that are leveled to their abilities, students take customized quizzes. ▪ Students are rewarded with immediate feedback on quiz results, congratulations screens, and achievement rewards, such as certificates, ribbons, and sports items. ▪ Because Reading Counts! makes reading a fun and successful experience, students are motivated to read more and become better readers. <p>Reading Counts! provides students with opportunities to invest in their own academic improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students can search the e-catalog for books in their areas of interest. ▪ Students can monitor their own successes and progress toward goals. ▪ By using the <i>Read-O-Meter</i>, students can rate the books they have read and take satisfaction that their opinion counts.


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<p>6. Programs and activities that follow <i>principles of effectiveness</i> by being based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessment of objective data regarding need for before- and after-school programs ▪ Established set of performance measures aimed at ensuring the availability of high-quality academic enrichment opportunities ▪ If appropriate, scientifically based research that provides evidence that the program or activity will help students meet state and local achievement standards 	<p>Scholastic Reading Counts! is based on eight findings from research that have shown to improve student academic achievement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reading achievement is positively related to the amount of time spent reading. 2. Vocabulary and concept knowledge are developed through extensive reading. 3. Reading practice that is carefully selected and matched to students' reading levels is the best way to strengthen reading skills and foster the reading habit. 4. Motivation is essential for maintaining students' sustained attention on reading. 5. Comprehension requires wide reading, responding to questions, and talking and writing about what is read. 6. Helping struggling readers requires a supportive literacy environment as part of a carefully planned intervention program. 7. Families and communities have an important role in helping students become successful readers. 8. Assessment and evaluation are necessary in order to monitor student progress and adjust instruction. <p>The Lexile Framework[®] for Reading, developed by MetaMetrics, Inc., is the result of nearly two decades of research by measurement and testing scientists at Duke University, the University of Chicago, Stanford University, and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Through a series of grants from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the team successfully tested the Lexile Framework with over 500,000 students.</p> <p>(Please contact a Scholastic Representative for complete findings, which appear in the <i>Scholastic Reading Counts! Research and Results Report</i>[®].)</p>
<p>7. The eligible entity has experience or promise of success in providing educational and related activities that will complement and enhance the academic performance, achievement, and positive youth development of the students.</p>	<p>Outcomes in case studies prepared by schools using <i>The Electronic Bookshelf (EBS)</i>, the predecessor to Scholastic Reading Counts!, showed that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reading scores improved on standardized and criterion-referenced texts. ▪ Circulation of books in classrooms and libraries increased. ▪ Time spent on reading tasks increased. ▪ Students demonstrated a more positive attitude about reading. ▪ Student achievement improved in other subject areas. ▪ EBS students outperformed others on achievement tests. <p>(Please contact a Scholastic Representative for complete findings, which appear in the <i>Scholastic Reading Counts! Research and Results Report</i>[®].)</p>


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<p>8. To sustain a quality program, staff delivering academic support and enrichment services should be provided ongoing training and learning opportunities.</p>	<p>Reading Counts! offers educators a variety of professional development solutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>On-site, Hands-on Software Training.</i> An expert trainer guides staff through all program features so that staff will be competent and productive in managing Reading Counts!. Customized workshops cover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How to manage and assess student reading using the <i>Scholastic Management Suite</i>. ○ How to customize settings to target each student at the right level of challenge. ○ How to examine comprehensive reports to help monitor reading growth and alert staff if intervention is needed. ▪ <i>Scholastic Red.</i> Provides facilitated online and in-person courses that help teachers apply scientifically based reading research to improve teaching and learning. <p>(Please contact a Scholastic representative for more information about these professional development opportunities.)</p>
<p>9. Academic activities are aligned with the school's curriculum in the core subject areas.</p>	<p>Scholastic Reading Counts! aligns with a school's reading and language arts curriculum. Quizzes and books are available for basal reading textbook series. Teachers may author quizzes to be used with textbook chapters, newspaper articles, and other instructional materials in all subjects, as well as to be used as a review of material prior to a subject area test.</p> <p>Reading Counts! quizzes encourage students to think about literary elements, such as characterization, setting, plot, and perspective. Students read from a variety of genres, including science fiction, biography, historical fiction, mystery, drama, and poetry.</p> <p>The program provides skills practice in these areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fluency ▪ Vocabulary development ▪ Comprehension ▪ Cause and effect ▪ Summarizing ▪ Sequencing ▪ Main idea and detail <p>Extension activities naturally stem from the Reading Counts! program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Book discussions and reading groups provide students with practice in listening and speaking. ▪ Students increase their writing skills by writing about the books they have read. ▪ By reading nonfiction books in an area they are studying, students improve their researching skills.

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<p>10. Program was developed and will be carried out in active collaboration with the schools the students attend.</p>	<p>Scholastic will collaborate with a district to develop a customized plan for the implementation of Reading Counts! for a 21st CCLC program.</p> <p>Learning Centers can purchase customized packs for students in elementary, middle school, and high school. Over 1,600 book and quiz collections are organized by grade level and related by theme, genre, topic, award, and many other categories.</p> <p>Reading Counts! supports reading textbook series from Open Court, Houghton Mifflin, McGraw Hill, Scott Foresman, Harcourt Trophies, and Scholastic Literacy Place™. Quizzes are available for anthology assignments, leveled libraries, and recommended trade books.</p> <p>When students advance to the next grade level in the program, their Reading Counts!-generated data moves with them so that staff can continue to use the information to individualize instruction. Data can also be exported and shared with the schools in the district that the students attend.</p>
<p>11. The program includes a plan for how the community learning center will continue after funding under this part ends.</p>	<p>Scholastic is committed to ensuring the sustainability of Scholastic Reading Counts! beyond the period funded by a 21st CCLC grant. For example, Reading Counts! software packs come with a permanent license that allows an unlimited number of students to use the software on an unlimited number of computer stations.</p> <p>Reading Counts! can be effectively integrated with other school or district activities that are being funded from sources other than 21st CCLC. The federal funding programs for which Reading Counts! meets selected criteria include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs ▪ Title I, Part B-1 – Reading First ▪ Title I, Part B-4 – Improving Literacy Through School Libraries ▪ Title III – English Language Acquisition ▪ Title V, Part A – Innovative Programs

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<p>12. The program or activity shall undergo a periodic evaluation to assess its progress toward achieving its goal of providing high-quality opportunities for academic enrichment.</p>	<p>Scholastic Reading Counts! provides actionable, quantitative data that help educators evaluate student progress toward raising student achievement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Student progress can be tracked by points earned or by the number of books or words read.▪ Student achievement can be evaluated by three systems: Lexile[®], Guided Reading, or grade-equivalent reading levels.▪ Students work toward quantifiable reading goals that are automatically recorded in Reading Counts!▪ Performance is tracked through actionable reporting graphs.▪ Data can be evaluated by individual student, reading group, class, teacher, grade level, or by all the Reading Counts! participants in the learning center. <p>Teachers generate more than 30 reports that give individual and class accomplishments. Available reports include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Award Progress Report</i>, which enables a teacher to determine whether a student has achieved his/her reading goal within a specified time period▪ <i>Graph: Average Quiz Score</i>, which shows average quiz results for an individual student over a period of time▪ <i>Reading Report Card</i>, which is a comprehensive summary of quiz results and other important information for individual students.▪ <i>Graph: Goals</i>, which shows student, group, or class progress toward the annual goal.▪ <i>Reading Progress Update</i>, which shows cumulative student progress during a specific time period and how many quizzes were passed out of how many taken.