



Scholastic Reading Counts!™

Aligns to Enhancing Education Through Technology Criteria


According to the federal guidance for the *Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) Program*, a Local Education Agency's (LEA) technology plan must address 13 specific components in order to qualify for formula or competitive funding. The following chart details how **Scholastic Reading Counts!™** helps meet 12 of these required components.

Required EETT Components	 Scholastic Reading Counts! v. 3.0
<p>1. <u>Strategies for improving academic achievement and teacher effectiveness:</u> A description of how the applicant will use EETT funds to improve the academic achievement, including technology literacy, of all students attending schools served by the LEA and to improve the capacity of all teachers in schools served by the LEA to integrate technology effectively into curriculum and instruction.</p>	<p>Scholastic Reading Counts! is a computer-based, comprehensive program that motivates students in grades K-12 to read and helps educators manage, monitor, and assess student performance.</p> <p>Reading Counts! consists of three major components:</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 help all children succeed ▪ The <i>Scholastic Management Suite™</i>, which provides teachers with tools to monitor student progress and manage an independent reading program, as well as data to guide instruction <p>The Reading Counts! program provides students with practice that develops essential fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and test-taking skills.</p> <p>These Scholastic Reading Counts! features help motivate students to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leveled books that give them the appropriate amount of reading challenge ▪ Immediate feedback on quiz results ▪ Personalized congratulations screens for passing quizzes ▪ Achievement certificates and other rewards <p>Teachers can customize instruction to meet student needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teachers are able to write their own quizzes. ▪ <i>Auto-Alerts!</i> notify them if a student is struggling. ▪ Reports track quiz results, goals reached, total words read per student, and other pertinent data that can be used to inform instruction. ▪ <i>Quiz Manager</i> helps teachers select titles to integrate the program into curricula in other subject areas. ▪ <i>Book Expert</i> allows teachers to match students to books they can read successfully with three different text leveling systems and a searchable database of more than 33,000 titles noted by topic areas, culture, award, series, and comprehension skill practice. <i>Book Expert</i> also provides teachers with word counts for each of these books.


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<p>2. <u>Goals:</u> A description of the applicant's specific goals, aligned with challenging state standards, for using advanced technology to improve student academic achievement.</p>	<p>Scholastic Reading Counts! can help support district goals to meet language arts standards and improve reading achievement. 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. 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>The use of Reading Counts!, and extension activities stemming from the program, helps students meet state standards in other aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students enjoy reading, read more, and become better readers. ▪ 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. ▪ Computerized reports guide instruction.
<p>3. <u>Steps to increase accessibility:</u> A description of the steps the applicant will take to ensure that all students and teachers have increased access to technology.</p>	<p>Scholastic Reading Counts! is designed to meet the needs of all learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Emergent readers</i> benefit from Beginning Readers books, Shared Reading collections, and from taking oral quizzes. ▪ <i>Gifted students</i> are challenged by appropriately leveled books. They can author quizzes for other students to take and engage in extension activities, such as literary circles. ▪ <i>English language learners</i> select high interest/intervention books and can take quizzes on audio books. Spanish books are available. Teachers can administer a Spanish and English quiz for the same book. ▪ <i>Resource room students</i> read books targeted to their reading level, and can take quizzes on audio books. Teachers vary program settings to adjust the number of questions needed to pass a quiz and the length of the quiz. <p>Teachers receive sufficient training and technical support so that they can effectively use Reading Counts! The program offers many automatic features for ease of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Scholastic Management Suite</i> automatically tracks every student's reading level throughout the year and over several years. ▪ <i>Auto-Alerts!</i> and instant reporting help teachers identify struggling students and make it easy to address all student needs. ▪ Educators view student records at any time to assess student progress and adjust reading instruction. ▪ <i>Scholastic Management Suite</i> automatically grades quizzes and monitors student performance. ▪ Networked system allows educators to share student data and allows administrators to track progress on a school-wide basis. ▪ Students can be grouped together for easy progress monitoring and customized settings.


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<p>4. <u>Promotion of curricula and teaching strategies that integrate technology:</u> A description of how the applicant will identify and promote curricula and teaching strategies that integrate technology effectively into curricula and instruction, based on a review of relevant research and leading to improvements in student academic achievement.</p>	<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>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 in achievement tests. <p>Reading Counts! uses the Lexile Framework® for Reading, a valid, research-based text leveling system that matches readers to books at an appropriate reading level. MetaMetrics, Inc. developed the Lexile Framework after more than 40 years of research by various reading comprehension specialists. It is based on the analyses of the reading comprehension levels of over 400,000 students between grades 1-12 over a period of 15 years.</p> <p>Please contact a Scholastic Representative for complete findings in the <i>Scholastic Reading Counts! Research and Results Report</i>®.</p>
<p>5. <u>Professional development:</u> A description of how the applicant will provide ongoing, sustained professional development for teachers, principals, administrators, and school library media personnel to further the effective use of technology in the classroom or library media center.</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> Scholastic assesses school needs, designs a customized workshop, and provides staff with the training and tools to successfully implement Reading Counts! Workshop topics include how to manage and assess student reading using the <i>Scholastic Management Suite</i> and how to examine comprehensive Reading Counts! reports that help teachers monitor reading growth. ▪ <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>


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<p>6. <u>Technology type and costs:</u> A description of the type and costs of technology to be acquired with education technology funds, including provisions for interoperability of components.</p>	<p>Scholastic Reading Counts! 3.0 will run with a Macintosh® or PC Windows® platform. The following specifications are the <i>minimum</i> system requirements needed to run the program. Please contact a Scholastic representative for <i>recommended</i> technical requirements.</p> <p>Network server</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Windows: Pentium II-class processor, 400MHz or higher (Higher requirements may be needed to support certain versions of Windows) ▪ Mac: PowerPC 200 MHz or higher (A more powerful machine is required to support Mac OS X.) ▪ 128 MB or higher RAM ▪ 360 MB hard disk space ▪ 10/100 Base-T Ethernet Card ▪ Windows: NT 4.0, XP, or 2000 server ▪ Mac: OS 9.2 with AppleShare IP 6.3 or higher <p>Macintosh student/teacher workstations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PowerPC 200 MHz processor (higher for Mac OS X) ▪ 64 MB or higher RAM ▪ Free hard disk space—50 MB (student WS), 65 MB (teacher WS), 70 MB (shared) ▪ 10/100 Base-T Ethernet Card ▪ Mac OS 8.6 ▪ 2x CD-ROM drive, 640x480 monitor with 256 color display, black-and-white printer for the teacher workstation <p>Windows student/teacher workstations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pentium II-class processor at 266 MHz or higher ▪ 64 MB or higher RAM ▪ Free hard disk space—50 MB (student WS), 55 MB (teacher WS), 65 MB (shared) ▪ 10/100 Base-T Ethernet Card ▪ Windows 95, 98, ME, 2000, XP Home or Professional ▪ 2x CD-ROM drive, 640x480 monitor with 256 color display, black-and-white printer for the teacher workstation <p>Please contact a Scholastic representative for <i>standalone installation</i> requirements.</p> <p>Reading Counts! software custom value pack contains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A voucher coupon for 1,020 quizzes. ▪ One-time use of <i>MyLibrary</i> service that tells schools which quizzes they need to match the books in their libraries. ▪ Unlimited software site license. ▪ One year of toll-free telephone technical support. <p>Please contact a Scholastic representative to discuss customizing a pack and to review associated costs.</p>
<p>7. <u>Coordination with other resources:</u> A description of how the applicant will coordinate activities funded through the education technology program with technology-related activities supported with funds from other sources.</p>	<p>Scholastic Reading Counts! can be integrated with specific technology-related school activities using EETT funds and money from state, local, foundation, and other sources. 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 IV, Part B – 21st Century Community Learning Centers ▪ Title V, Part A – Innovative Programs


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<p>8. <u>Integration of technology with curricula and instruction:</u> A description of how the applicant will integrate technology (including software and electronically delivered learning materials) into curricula and instruction, and a timeline for this integration.</p>	<p>Throughout the school year, teachers have many opportunities to integrate Reading Counts! into the curricula and instruction.</p> <p><u>Fall-term activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize Reading Counts! library ▪ Interview students to set reading goals and assess the appropriate reading level ▪ Administer first quiz and continue testing comprehension as students complete reading books ▪ Examine Scholastic Reading Counts! reports to check initial student progress and to monitor progress throughout the semester ▪ Form reading groups based on interest and reading levels ▪ Establish incentive program, if desired ▪ Intervene based on data from <i>Auto-Alerts</i> and <i>Alert Reports</i> ▪ Use <i>Book Expert</i> to identify books that tie into curriculum units ▪ Teachers write own quizzes, if desired ▪ Students respond to books orally and in writing ▪ Share progress reports with parents ▪ Throughout the semester, adjust student settings based on performance so that the student is appropriately challenged, yet successful <p><u>Spring-term activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review classroom performance and adjust program settings, if necessary ▪ Adjust student goals, reading groups, and quiz settings to meet individual student needs ▪ Use computer-generated reports to assess student progress ▪ Students continue taking quizzes and responding orally and in writing to books ▪ Teachers print reports on student progress to share with administrators ▪ Prepare a Spring Reading List based on what students are reading, their interest and reading levels, and curriculum themes and topics ▪ Establish summer reading incentives and book lists ▪ Share progress reports with parents ▪ Post lists of the most popular books read using data from the <i>Read-O-Meter</i>

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<p>9. <u>Innovative delivery strategies:</u> A description of how the applicant will encourage the development and use of innovative strategies for the delivery of specialized or rigorous courses and curricula through the use of technology, including distance-learning technologies, particularly in areas that would not otherwise have access to such courses or curricula due to geographical distances or insufficient resources.</p>	<p>Scholastic Reading Counts! is an innovative and effective way to motivate students to read through the use of technology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students take computerized quizzes on leveled books that they have read. ▪ Instant feedback, customized congratulations screens, and incentives based on performance motivate students to read more and develop essential skills. ▪ Students can write quizzes for books in the current quiz library or for additional books they have read. ▪ Reading Counts! quizzes have an item bank of 30 questions. When a student takes or retakes a quiz, the program randomly selects the specified number of questions (typically 10) from this bank. No two quizzes are alike. <p>Teachers use Reading Counts! to enhance instruction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Book Expert</i> helps teachers select titles to integrate the program into curricula in other subject areas. ▪ Reading Counts! quizzes can be searched by comprehension skill area, isolating titles that promote practice of essential skills. ▪ Teachers can author their own quizzes for specific skills lessons or for individual chapters in a book used in class. ▪ Quizzes can be written for other subject areas, such as for social studies or science textbook chapters. ▪ Teachers can view word counts for every book available through Reading Counts!. ▪ <i>MyLibrary</i> matches school library's automated records with database of Reading Counts! quizzes. ▪ Schools can keep teachers and parents up to date on what is available in the school's quiz library by exporting lists in HTML format and posting them on their website. ▪ <i>Quiz Manager</i> allows teachers to print out quizzes so that homebound students can participate. ▪ Reading Counts! can be installed on an unlimited number of workstations to increase accessibility to the program. <p>Using Reading Counts! Management Suite, educators can easily monitor student reading achievement and growth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quiz results are automatically tracked for each student. ▪ Teachers generate over 30 reports to determine student achievement and adjust instruction accordingly. ▪ Progress reports are shared with parents.
<p>10. <u>Parental involvement:</u> A description of how the applicant will use technology effectively to promote parental involvement and increase communication with parents, including a description of how parents will be informed of the technology used.</p>	<p>Reading Counts! provides various means for involving parents in their children's reading 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 sent home. ▪ Parents support reading at home by reading aloud the leveled books students choose and promoting reading for pleasure. ▪ Parents can take quizzes during Open House. ▪ Students can share their successes with parents during a "Family Reading Night" or Open House. ▪ Parents can view the school's web site to see what quizzes are included in the school's library.

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<p>12. <u>Accountability measures:</u> A description of the process and accountability measures that the applicant will use to evaluate the extent to which activities funded under the program are effective in integrating technology into curricula and instruction, increasing the ability of teachers to teach, and enabling students to reach challenging state academic standards</p>	<p>Scholastic Reading Counts! provides actionable, quantitative data that help educators evaluate student progress and raise 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 progress 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. <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
<p>13. <u>Supporting resources:</u> A description of the supporting resources, such as services, software, other electronically delivered learning materials, and print resources, that will be acquired to ensure successful and effective uses of technology.</p>	<p>Available Reading Counts! resources include technology, print materials, technical services, student rewards, and professional development:</p> <p><u>Technology Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scholastic Reading Counts! software for elementary, middle school, and high school classrooms with a total of more than 32,000 quizzes ▪ School-wide site license, which applies to an unlimited number of students on an unlimited number of computer stations ▪ <i>MyLibrary</i> service, which matches a school library's book collection with current Reading Counts! quizzes ▪ Accelerated Reader® <i>Trade-Up Kits</i> to import records to Reading Counts! ▪ Comprehensive website that provides research-based data <p><u>Print Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Educator's Guide</i> that contains reproducibles and describes how to use Reading Counts! effectively ▪ <i>Software Manual</i> ▪ Scholastic Reading Counts! leveled books and collections ▪ <i>Research and Results Report</i>® ▪ <i>Motivational Awards and Ideas</i> brochure, which gives proven incentive and motivation program strategies and themes. <p><u>Technical Support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Toll-free telephone technical support line ▪ Online FAQs that provide solutions ▪ Downloadable program enhancements <p><u>Student Rewards</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Four different packs that contain items, such as ribbons and pencils, that students can earn with points or by meeting goals. <p><u>Professional Development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Customized on-site, hands-on software training ▪ <i>Scholastic Red</i> professional development solution