



Make Learning Bigger


Big Day for PreK

Aligns to Title I, Section 1003(g)

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

School Improvement Grants (SIG) are intended to help Title I schools, identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructure, implement reform strategies, specifically the four intervention models—Turnaround, Restart, School Closure, or Transformation Model. Within the Turnaround and Transformation Models,

districts and schools are required to implement a series of required activities, as well as other optional elements. The chart below shows how **Big Day for PreK** can support School Improvement, specifically for Turnaround and Transformation Models. The criteria are drawn from the Federal Title I, Section 1003(g) Guidance posted at: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/legislation.html>.

SIG Requirements	Big Day for PreK
<p>Implement an instructional program that is research-based</p>	<p>Research affirms the role of social and emotional development in young children’s readiness for kindergarten (National Research Council, 2008). Children learn best when they have developed the behaviors and attitudes that will enable them to function productively and collaboratively in school and society. Furthermore, experts agree that children are best prepared for school when early education emphasizes the development of the whole child, systematically fostering learning in domains such as social studies, creative arts, and physical development in addition to the domains of early literacy, science, mathematics, technology, and purposeful play.</p> <p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> is a comprehensive early learning program that embraces children’s natural curiosity and encourages them to explore and connect with the world around them. <i>Big Day</i> provides a comprehensive early learning curriculum for full- or half-day classes; an extensive collection of classic and contemporary children’s literature and nonfiction text in a variety of formats; intensive social emotional, cognitive, and physical development; technology that connects children, teachers and families; and 100% equity in English and Spanish.</p> <p>The <i>Big Day for PreK</i> approach to learning is grounded in cognitive research and builds on young children’s knowledge of and curiosity about the world around them. The comprehensive curriculum is designed to ensure that children acquire new knowledge, skills, and understanding each day through hands-on experience, purposeful play, and teacher-led instruction. <i>Big Day for PreK</i> learning experiences integrate all domains, including social-emotional development, oral language, literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, art, and physical development.</p> <p>Grounded in responsive, integrated instruction, <i>Big Day for PreK</i> prepares preschool-aged children for kindergarten through intentional, engaging learning opportunities that build the foundations in these essential learning domains. Development of <i>Big Day for PreK</i> was informed by a team of expert researchers and practitioners, led by Dr. Anne Cunningham, an early childhood researcher and professor at the University of California, Berkeley whose areas of expertise include the cognitive and motivational processes underlying reading ability and the interplay of context, development, and literacy instruction.</p> <p> For additional information regarding the research foundations for <i>Big Day for PreK</i>, please visit: http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/early-learning-program/big-day-for-prekindergarten-research-authors.htm</p>

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<p>Implement an instructional program that is aligned with State academic standards</p>	<p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> supports growth in four domains that have been shown to be predictive of kindergarten readiness—Reading, Language, Writing, as well as Speaking and Listening.</p> <p><u>Reading</u></p> <p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> provides daily, engaging lessons for the whole class and small groups that teach alphabet knowledge and phonological awareness. Children learn upper- and lowercase letters in alphabetical order while building on their knowledge of the letters in their names and environmental print. In daily teacher-led small groups, phonological awareness activities provide further instruction, modeling, and practice. Learning Centers activities help children explore letter knowledge through play, environmental print, and authentic reading and writing connections.</p> <p><u>Language</u></p> <p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> guides teachers to explicitly introduce new words with multiple repetitions each week. Each <i>Big Experience</i> includes vocabulary words from one of the following categories—Theme Words, Story Words, Math Words, Science Words, or Social Studies Words. The program places importance on new words that are likely to be used more frequently in the classroom and are necessary to be successful in school.</p> <p><u>Writing</u></p> <p>The <i>Big Day for PreK</i> Teaching Guides include writing-based lesson to engage children in different types of writing, including teacher-modeled writing; shared writing, in which students and teachers collaborate; interactive writing, in which children participate in writing one or more letters or whole words; and independent writing, in which children “write” on their own using drawings, scribbles, and letters. In addition to a dedicated Writing Center, every learning center includes a “Writing Connection” to ensure children experiment with writing throughout the day.</p> <p><u>Speaking & Listening</u></p> <p>During read-alouds, <i>Big Day for PreK</i> uses a dialogic reading approach that encourages conversational interactions and gives children opportunities to experiment with and explore language. <i>BookStix</i>, preprinted sticky notes, can be affixed to the backs of the read-alouds and big books, to provide dialogic reading prompts that promote language and engage children in conversation. Teachers use the Big Wall Chart to help students demonstrate knowledge of new words and develop language as they listen, follow directions, describe, retell, role-play, and tell stories in relation to the pictures on the charts.</p>
<p>Integrate technology-based supports and interventions as part of the instructional program</p>	<p>In <i>Big Day for PreK</i>, children have daily opportunities to use technology to practice literacy skills and extend their learning. In the Technology Center, children can independently access <i>BookFlix</i>, an online literacy resource that pairs classic video story books from Westin Woods with theme-related nonfiction eBooks from Scholastic. Children can click on any of the theme-related reading pairs in English or Spanish; a read-aloud feature allows children to listen to the books with headphones, with or without captions. They can click on highlighted vocabulary words in the nonfiction books to hear a definition. Children can further extend their learning by playing literacy games or exploring links to carefully selected, theme-related websites.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED</p>


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<p>Integrate technology-based supports and interventions as part of the instructional program <i>Continued</i></p>	<p><i>Big Day for PreK Teacher Space</i> is the learning management system for the program. Teachers can use the customizable lesson planner to plan daily and weekly lessons and tailor them to fit their own schedules and learning objectives. The Teacher Space provides access to <i>BookFlix</i> and to downloadable activities and resources related to lessons, letters for home communication, and certificates to recognize children’s achievements.</p> <p>The <i>Big Day for PreK Family Space</i> provides families with access to the learning that is happening in the classroom. On <i>Family Space</i>, parents can see what children are learning each week, and read messages from the teacher. Parents can access <i>BookFlix</i>, download books to read together, play online games, or access suggestions for literacy-building activities to do with their child.</p>
<p>Use formative, interim, and summative assessments to inform and differentiate instruction</p>	<p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> includes multiple informal and formal measures that are appropriate to children’s development, to help provide educators and families with a comprehensive picture of each child’s strengths and progress along the path to kindergarten readiness and school success. Assessment in the program is based on five <i>Pathways to Readiness</i>—developmental continuums with research-based indicators and benchmarks in five domains—Social-Emotional Development; Oral Language Development; Emergent Reading; Emergent Writing; Emergent Mathematics Development. These developmental continuums for each domain identify a discrete set of skills that indicate key stages of development—Pre-Emergent, Beginning, Emerging, and Developed.</p> <p>The <i>Scholastic Early Childhood Inventory</i> (SECI) formally assesses progress and growth toward competence in four domains that have been shown to be predictive of kindergarten readiness—Oral Language, Phonological Awareness, Alphabet Knowledge, and Mathematics. The SECI can be administered at three points in the school year—beginning, middle, and end. The first administration places every child along a developmental continuum for each of the key domains; subsequent administrations track progress along the developmental path. After the assessment is administered, teachers enter results on the <i>Big Day Teacher Space</i>. Once scores are entered online, <i>Teacher Space</i> will automatically organize the data into useful class- and child-level reports.</p> <p>The <i>Big Day for PreK</i> curriculum also includes daily opportunities to observe children’s growth toward developmental milestones in informal ways across all parts of the day. Observation guides are directly linked to lesson content making strong connections to each Big Experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Circle Time/Story Time Observation Guides help teachers to monitor children’s progress and plan one-to-one follow-up. ▪ Small-Group Observation Guides help teachers focus their observations of children and plan for Small Group Intervention. ▪ Clipboard Observation Guides help teachers track each child’s performance of important skills within key domains throughout each theme. ▪ PreK 360 Records are graphic organizers that help teachers organize their notes about each child and summarize observations when preparing for family conferences. ▪ Anecdotal Records help teachers keep ongoing daily records for each child. ▪ <i>Show and Grow</i> Portfolios provide an authentic and visual representation of children’s progress in print or online.

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<p>Promote the continuous use of data in order to meet the diverse academic needs of individual students</p>	<p>Teachers use the <i>Big Day for PreK Teacher Space</i> to access observation guides and data to meet the diverse academic needs of individual students. The Assessment and Reporting tools allow teachers to record informal observations, print SECI materials, enter assessment results, and view and print reports at the class or child level.</p> <p>Observation guides are available for Circle Time, Story, Time, or Small Group Time. Teachers can view and print the selected guide for specific themes and weeks. The Clipboard Observation Guide and PreK 360 Record can also be downloaded and printed. Teachers are able to enter anecdotal records regarding children’s progress and behaviors.</p> <p>Once teachers have entered children’s SECI assessment scores online, <i>Teacher Space</i> will automatically organize the data into useful reports to help plan instruction. The following reports are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Class Readiness Reports summarize overall class performance in Oral Language Development, Phonological Awareness, Alphabet Knowledge, and Mathematics. ▪ Progress Reports show individual child-level performance on each subtest for all modules. ▪ Assessment Status Reports show class-level data regarding which modules each child has completed. ▪ Score Records show raw scores for each sub-test.
<p>Implement a school wide <i>Response to Intervention</i> model</p>	<p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> recognizes that each preschool classroom will include children with a wide range of developmental needs, as well as physical and cognitive strengths and challenges. The program is designed to provide teachers with consistent opportunities to modify and personalize instruction to make learning accessible to all children. The Teaching Guides include Responsive Instruction pages for every day. These pages provide suggestions for modifying and personalizing instruction for 3-year-olds and children with special needs, including those with social-emotional, visual, hearing, physical, and cognitive challenges. They also include suggestions for extending instruction through enrichment activities. Teachers can use these Responsive Instruction suggestions to accommodate individual needs during whole-group instruction, or to offer additional scaffolded support and guided practice tailored to students’ needs during Small Group and Individual Instruction.</p>
<p>Implement effective strategies to ensure that students with disabilities and LEP students acquire language skills to master academic content</p>	<p><u>Strategies for English Language Learners</u></p> <p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> provides complete equity in English and Spanish. Over 1,000 components are available in both English and Spanish, including the Teaching Guides, print books and audiobooks, <i>BookFlix</i>, Big Wall charts, <i>BookStix</i>, Math Mats, Science Posters, downloadable teacher resources, family letters, <i>Family Space</i>, and more.</p> <p>The <i>Big Day for PreK</i> curriculum provides support for teachers to strengthen English language learners’ literacy and language skills throughout the day. The English Language Development feature in the Teaching Guides provides suggestions for explicit language instruction to help students understand new concepts, practice developing language skills, and draw connections between their home language and English. For teachers teaching in Spanish, <i>Bridge to English</i> features provide support for making connections in English during whole-group lessons.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED</p>

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<p>Implement effective strategies to ensure that students with disabilities and LEP students acquire language skills to master academic content</p>	<p>Small-Group Instruction provides time for teachers to work more closely on specific language skills while Learning Centers provide opportunities for English language learners to play and practice communicating with their English-speaking peers. New vocabulary is always introduced in context, which is particularly useful for supporting the understanding of students whose home language is not English. Structured interactions, such as dialogic reading, provide English learners with highly supported opportunities to practice oral language skills.</p> <p><u>Strategies for Special Education Students</u></p> <p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> includes guidelines for modifying and extending instruction for children with identified special needs, including vision impairments, hearing impairments, cognitive challenges, physical challenges, language and communication delays, and emotional or behavioral disorders.</p> <p>The Responsive Instruction pages for each day provide suggestions for both modifying <i>Big Experiences</i> to accommodate specific needs and for following up individually with students who need more tailored instruction. These suggestions are designed to increase children’s access to the curriculum by offering multiple means of engaging students with content, multiple means of representing content, and multiple means for children to express learned content. Other approaches to modifying and individualizing instruction include modifying materials, modifying the environment, modifying the ways learners can respond to instruction, modifying the level and type of support, and supporting attention to the activity at hand.</p>
<p>Establishing schedules and strategies that provide increased learning time</p>	<p>The <i>Big Day for PreK</i> curriculum is divided into eight engaging themes, each about one month long. Early in the year, the themes focus on concepts in children’s more immediate world, and then broaden over the course of the year as children understand more and more about the world around them. The eight themes integrate learning across content areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ready for School! ▪ My Family ▪ Our Community ▪ Awesome Animals! ▪ Imagine It, Make It ▪ Growing Up Healthy ▪ Nature All Around Us ▪ Moving On <p>Each theme is linked with a Social-Emotional focus and a Knowledge focus that identifies the learning objectives and key understandings for that month. Within each theme, four weekly subtopics build children’s knowledge in theme-specific concepts, language, and skills. Throughout, flexible content allows teachers to incorporate their own favorite themes into the classroom.</p>
<p>Providing ongoing mechanisms for family and community engagement</p>	<p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> promotes the home-school connection with <i>Big Day Family Space</i>, a secure website that families can log in to from any computer with an Internet connection. Using <i>Family Space</i>—available in English and Spanish—families stay informed about what their child’s class is learning each week. Using the downloadable list of Kindergarten Readiness Indicators, families can understand and monitor their child’s development throughout the year.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED</p>

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<p>Providing ongoing mechanisms for family and community engagement <i>Continued</i></p>	<p><i>Family Space</i> also provides suggestions for theme-related books in both English and Spanish, as well as Downloadable Books for parents and caregivers to read with their children. Families can print downloadable, bilingual resources to help their children build mathematics and literacy skills, including <i>Learn Together</i> Downloadables, <i>Clifford</i> Literacy Activities, <i>Clifford</i> Mathematics Activities, and ABC Take-Home Books.</p> <p><i>Family Space</i> also includes access to <i>BookFlix</i>, an online literary resource that provides children and their families access to literature and related activities. The animated fictional and storybooks provide audiovisual support to build and strengthen literacy skills and make learning fun, while the nonfiction eBooks help build background knowledge and introduce content-area learning. Families can play interactive educational games related to the <i>BookFlix</i> book pairs, learn more about the storybook author, or explore carefully selected, age-appropriate Web links. The <i>BookFlix</i> and related activities, as well as <i>Family Space</i>, provide families with rich resources for supporting and extending children’s social-emotional, literacy, and mathematics learning in the home.</p>
<p>Provide staff with ongoing, high-quality job-embedded professional development that is aligned with the school’s comprehensive instructional program</p>	<p><u><i>Big Day for PreK</i> Implementation Training, Half or Full Day</u> RECOMMENDED—At an additional cost This training provides guidance on organizing and managing the classroom, assessing children’s progress, and engaging families throughout the year.</p> <p><u><i>Big Day for PreK</i> Interactive Webinar Quickstart Training</u> RECOMMENDED—At an additional cost This interactive Webinar includes using teaching resources, managing the classroom, assessing progress, and engaging families.</p>
<p>Conduct periodic reviews to ensure that the curriculum is being implemented with fidelity, and is having the intended impact on student achievement</p>	<p><u>In-Classroom Support & Coaching</u> RECOMMENDED—At an additional cost Scholastic offers a yearlong customized plan of in-classroom visits that provides teachers with in-person, individualized support and focused strategies for the classroom. Based upon the Teacher Self-Assessment Form, Scholastic Consultants provide teachers with individualized support and focused strategies side-by-side in the classroom. Our consultants will build relationships with teachers to support on-model implementation, classroom management, program monitoring, and data-driven instruction.</p>
<p>Develop and increase teacher and school leader effectiveness</p>	<p>The <i>Scholastic Achievement Partners</i> (SAP) team of proven leadership and instructional specialists can partner with school leaders to help develop and implement an actionable plan for school improvement. SAP provides districts and schools with focused support for strategic planning, on-site consulting, leadership coaching, instructional support culture, and governance support to help district leaders achieve school improvement goals.</p>

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<p>Develop and increase teacher and school leader effectiveness <i>Continued</i></p>	<p>SAP services include the following:</p> <p><u>Comprehensive Needs Assessment</u>—During this data-driven planning process, SAP consultants work with school leadership teams to identify the strengths and challenges of a district or school. Working together, goals are established, and measurements to assess implementation are defined. The Needs Assessment includes interviews, focus group discussions, presentations, and a final report.</p> <p><u>Data Analysis Reporting (DAR)</u>—The Data Analysis Report (DAR) is a longitudinal report that provides an in-depth review of a school or district’s performance measures over the course of the past three years. The data profile provides quantitative evidence of student academic data, demographic information, college readiness indicators, and school characteristics to help identify strengths and areas of need and serves as a starting point for comprehensive school improvement.</p> <p><u>Leadership Institute</u>—SAP can tailor an intensive Leadership Institute that quickly and effectively builds the leadership density of the academic team. Ideal for districts with new leadership or within a district under rapid change, these institutes are delivered over consecutive days and typically held during the summer of scheduled in-service days. The topics are customized to meet the specific needs of the leadership team.</p> <p><u>Foundations of Organizational Leadership</u>—These one-day courses focus on building leadership capacity. Topics include Establishing Structures, Communicating a Shared Vision, Creating a Culture of High Academic Expectations, Using Systemwide Data, Leading Change, Developing and Implementing Rigor and Relevance, as well as Leading Professional Dialogue.</p> <p><u>Foundations of Effective Instruction</u>—These one-day courses focus on building and sustaining teacher effectiveness. Topics include Creating a Rigorous and Relevant Learning Environment, Applying Rigorous and Relevant Instructional Strategies, Using Data to Inform Instruction, and Collaborating for Continuous Professional Learning.</p> <p><u>Leadership Coaching</u>—Highly customized, on-site support with an executive coach helps build leadership capacity through side-by-side, collaborative sessions that guide and support leaders.</p> <p><u>Job-Embedded Instructional Coaching</u>—Results-oriented and holistic in approach, job-embedded instructional coaching supports teachers in meeting the needs of every student by building their skills in learner engagement, academic rigor, and real world relevance. Coaches work with teachers during the regular school day in their classrooms and during planning periods to raise student achievement.</p> <p> For additional information regarding SAP services, please see: http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/scholastic-achievement-partners/#/our-services-section.</p>