Expert 21
Aligns to Enhancing Education
Through Technology Criteria

The primary goal of the *Enhancing Education through Technology (*Ed Tech) program is to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology in schools. .According to the federal *Guidance on the Enhancing Education through Technology (Ed Tech) 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 *Expert 21* helps meet 12 of these requirements.

Required *Ed Tech* Components	📖 *Expert 21*
1. <u>Strategies for improving academic achievement and teacher effectiveness</u>: A description of how the applicant will use *Ed Tech* 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	*Expert 21* is a comprehensive English-Language Arts program designed to accelerate students in grades 6-10 from Basic to Proficient by preparing them with the literacy expertise to thrive in the 21st century. *Expert 21* includes: ▪ Explicit instruction and application in 21st century skills that students will use in college, careers and life ▪ Content that students want to read because it's relevant and contemporary ▪ Content that integrates ELA and the content areas ▪ *Expert Space*, the first ever Digital Curriculum and Tools for the 21st Century ▪ Inquiry-based learning activities that help students gain an understanding of the world in which they live, learn, and work
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	*Expert 21* transforms the way all students access and deepen content-area knowledge, plan and complete projects and assignments, and develop 21st century information literacy skills. 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 The goal of *Expert 21* is to accelerate students from Basic to Proficient with the first contemporary, interactive 21st Century English-Language Arts Curriculum. The program is designed for students from basic to above, students exiting *READ 180*, or Early/Advanced English-Language learners. The three courses span a wide range of abilities in the classroom—from 650 to 1200 Lexiles®. Readings are also available online to read aloud to students who may next additional support and interactive scaffolding.
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	*Expert 21* is web-based and can be accessed anywhere students have an Internet connection. As a trusted home base, students can find information, complete assignments, and manage projects in school, the library, as well as at home.

Required *Ed Tech* Components	📖 *Expert 21*
4. Promotion of curricula and teaching strategies that integrate technology: 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	Each workshop in *Expert 21* 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. Each workshop culminates in a real world case study. To fully engage students in text before they begin reading, *Expert 21* provides students with background knowledge they'll need.

Each workshop is launched with an anchor video that provides an introduction to the Expert as well as a preview of the workshop readings. These videos provide students with background knowledge that will improve comprehension. Adolescents are motivated to read when they have a clear purpose for reading. The *Expert Question* establishes a relevant, meaningful reason to read. It helps students understand why they are reading before they engage with what they are reading. Unlike traditional literature programs, the *Expert Question* asks students to apply what they're reading to real world situations.

Each workshop in *Expert 21* features six readings plus an *Expert Reading*. Half are literary and half are informational. 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.

Adolescents love to learn about their world. Research indicates that exposure to nonfiction can build their literacy skills while simultaneously building bridges to the content areas. Informational, nonfiction text increases students' motivation for reading. At the end of every workshop, students engage in the *Expert Project*, by applying their newly acquired skills to solve real world problems.

Throughout the program, students will encounter several different types of culminating projects—case study, research paper, social action, personal expressions and debate. Each culminating project includes multiple links to relevant *Expert Spaces*. This encourages students to delve deeper, gather more resources and leverage the research tools in *Expert Space* to plan and complete longer assignments. |
| 5. Professional development: 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 | All purchasers of *Expert Space* have access to a free monthly online delivered training session. The monthly training reviews features, functionality, and ideas for how to incorporate *Expert Space* into the classroom and library. Additional training is available from Scholastic on a fee-basis. |

Required *Ed Tech* Components	📖 *Expert 21*
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	*Expert 21* includes several online technology programs: ▪ *Expert Space* is organized around the topics most commonly taught, researched and studied, *Expert Space* includes access to articles, videos, images, timelines, web links, primary sources, and maps to deepen learning. ▪ *Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI)* is given three to four times per school year, this progress monitoring assessment measures student reading growth. ▪ *xSkills,* an online comprehension assessment, is given at the end of each *Expert 21* workshop to assess English Language Arts skills. ▪ *Scholastic Achievement Manager* (SAM) is an online management system that allows teachers and administrators to track student progress and manage data effectively.
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	*Expert 21* can be integrated with funds and money from state, local, and other sources. The funding programs for which it qualifies include: ▪ Title IA—Improving Basic Programs ▪ Title IID—Enhancing Education through Technology ▪ Title III—English Language Acquisition ▪ Enhancing Education through Technology ▪ GEAR Up ▪ Smaller Learning Communities ▪ IDEA, Part B ▪ IDEA, *Response to Intervention*
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	*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. The program teaches the following skills and strategies: <u>Comprehension and Critical Thinking</u> ▪ Metacognitive strategies include making inferences, predicting, clarifying, questioning, summarizing, visualizing, and making connections. *(Continued)*

Required *Ed Tech* Components	📖 *Expert 21*
<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 Continued	• Comprehension strategies include main idea and detail, sequence of events, making inferences, drawing conclusions, fact and opinion, cause and effect, comparing and contrasting, problem and solution, as well as summarizing. • *Expert 21* also emphasizes higher-order thinking skills, such as analysis, evaluation, and synthesis throughout the program. <u>Vocabulary and Word Analysis</u> • Each *Expert 21* Workshop introduces students to vocabulary-rich literary and nonfiction texts. Nonfiction texts include academic language that students will encounter across the curriculum as well as content-area words that are specific to science, social studies, literature, and the arts. • Vocabulary learning is transferred from reading to communicating through writing lessons that focus on the same topics and forms as the readings. • Literary selections include short stories, novel excerpts, plays, and poetry that are filled with expressive and creative language. These texts build students' word consciousness of how words can be used to create mood, express characterization, and capture images. <u>Writing and Grammar</u> • The writing lessons include instruction in expository, persuasive, and narrative writing. Students practice writing cause and effect, analytical, compare/contrast, problem/solution, persuasive opinion, and persuasive essays. They also learn to write personal narratives, fictional narratives, science fiction stories, and research papers. • Each writing lesson introduces the elements of a writing form, provides a model, and then moves through the process of planning, drafting, revising, editing, and presenting. • Each *Expert 21* writing lesson includes grammar and usage lessons in the editing stage of the writing process. Students gain effective control of the conventions of written English when they are given frequent opportunities to explore them in their own writing, rather than in isolated exercises. *(Continued)*

Required _Ed Tech_ Components	📖 _Expert 21_
<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 Continued	<u>Literary Skills and Concepts</u> ▪ Literary terms and concepts are defined and explained in the "Before Reading" section of the lesson. ▪ During reading, annotations in the sidebar of the reading selections direct students to apply their knowledge in context while interacting with the text. ▪ After reading students examine the concept by comparing and analyzing its use and application in multiple selections. ▪ In the _Strategy Check_ students apply their knowledge of workshop skills in a set of activities that precede the formal assessment. ▪ In the online xSkills _Test_, students apply skills to a new selection. <u>Elements of Nonfiction</u> ▪ Elements of nonfiction are introduced on the "Before Reading" page, under the heading "Navigating Text," and then reinforced throughout the reading. They are chosen to highlight the most important aspect of each selection. ▪ Instruction is divided among format, text structures, patterns of organization, and additional concepts drawn from state standards and/or critical to the understanding of the text. <u>21st Century Skills</u> ▪ Communication and Collaboration, as well as Creativity and Innovation are intrinsic to most activities and projects in _Expert 21_. ▪ Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Information and Media Literacy, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Literacy, and Workplace and Life Skills are the focus of direct instruction and application in 21st Century Skills and the _Expert Projects_. ▪ The 21st Century Toolkit is an easy-to-use student resource that supports, extends, and supplements activities in _Expert 21_. A set of color-coded cards in six categories allows students to choose the instruction, resources, models, or scaffolding they need to complete a particular project or strengthen skills.

Required _Ed Tech_ Components	📖 _Expert 21_
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	_Expert 21_ is organized around 8 workshops per course. At each course level, students will explore various kinds of literacy, including personal literacy, content area literacy, social literacy and global literacy. Students learn that literacy has application across multiple genres. Readings are also available online to read aloud to students who may next additional support and interactive scaffolding. _Inquiry-based instruction_ engages students in activities and discussion around an organizing question or problem important in the world. In _Expert 21,_ each Workshop begins with an _Expert,_ or essential, _Question._ During the inquiry process, students explore and address the problem articulated by the question. Everything taught in an inquiry unit--including all attitudes, strategies, and concepts—is in the service of investigating the question, and understanding and doing things related to the question. Through inquiry, students learn how to use accepted problem-solving tools to construct understandings. Students engage in the same kind of processes and dialogues that practitioners do, and make use of the same tools, as well. They are inducted as apprentices into the ways "experts" know and do things. _Expert 21_ is flexible to fit into an existing English-Language Arts schedule. 1. Teacher-guided Exploration (30-45 minutes)—Model, mentor, monitor 2. Small Group/Independent Work (15-30 minutes)—Differentiate, collaborate, communicate 3. Whole Group Wrap-up (5-15 minutes)—Reflect, evaluate
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	Students will be able to access Expert Space outside of school, including community centers, libraries and at home. Through SAM, teachers and administrators can track student progress in Expert 21 and share with parents.

Required *Ed Tech* Components	📖 *Expert 21*

11. <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	*Expert 21* offers a variety of assessment opportunities throughout the school year. The following curriculum-based assessments are included:
	
	▪ <u>Ongoing Progress Monitoring</u>—Informative Assessment checkpoints in each workshop are used to diagnose skills and strategies' strengths and weaknesses in order to differentiate instruction. These checkpoints informally assess comprehension, literary analysis, navigating text, vocabulary/word analysis, fluency, as well as grammar and punctuation.
	
	▪ <u>21st Century Assessment</u>—The 21st Century Assessment measures acquisition of the following three 21st Century Skills. Each component is assessed using Teacher and Student Scoring Guides.
	
	   o 21st Century Skills—Twice per workshop, students are given direct instruction on a skill drawn from one of the 21st Century Skill categories—Communication and Collaboration, Creativity and Innovation, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Information and Media Literacy, ICT Literacy, and Workplace and Life Skills. These skills are tied to readings students have already completed, and provide them with the skills they need to complete the *Expert* project at the end of the workshop.
	
	   o Writing Assignment—Although students write throughout the workshop, the writing assignment focuses on a specific writing form. In each writing assignment, students work with a focused writing trait and explore the key qualities of developing ideas and organizing an essay, using student models and mentor texts from the Workshop.
	
	   o *Expert Project*—The *Expert Project* presents students with the opportunity to apply the expert knowledge and skills they accumulated during the Workshop. The *Expert Project Scoring Guide* assesses the two 21st Century Skills featured in the Workshop as well as cumulatively reviews other 21st Century Skills taught in previous Workshops. The different types of projects include case study, debate, research, personal inquiry, and social action.
	
	(Continued)

Required _Ed Tech_ Components	📖 _Expert 21_

Accountability measures:
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
Continued
	▪ End-of-Workshop Assessment—Two assessments measure students' acquisition of _Expert 21_ Skills at the end of each Workshop.
	
	  o The _Expert Space Strategy Check_ provides an opportunity for teachers to assess how well students grasp the various concepts taught in a particular Workshop and to teach a variety of test-taking skills and strategies. The Strategy Check assesses Comprehension, Vocabulary/Word Analysis, Literary Analysis, Navigating Text, _Expert 21_ Skills, Critical Thinking, and Expert Questions. The Strategy Check appears at the end of each Workshop, and includes a combination of ten multiple-choice and short answer questions.
	
	  o The _xSkills Tests_ are online, curriculum-based, and criterion-referenced assessments that measure the core skills taught in each Workshop and a selected set of recursive skills taught in previous Workshops. _xSkills Tests_ will help teachers evaluate students' progress, differentiate instruction, and determine grades. They will include assessments for Reading, Vocabulary, Writing, and Grammar.
	
	▪ _Scholastic Reading Inventory_ (SRI)—The SRI can be administered three times per year to monitor student reading progress. Use SRI at the beginning of the year for placement in literature circles, guidance on reading level for Expert Space and initial baseline progress monitoring.

12. Supporting resources: 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	_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. Students can explore each workshop in depth and get the scaffolding they need to be successful within _Expert Space_. Leveraging the principals of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), _Expert Space_ can help make text accessible to all students. _(Continued)_
Supporting resources:	

Required _Ed Tech_ Components	📖 _Expert 21_

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
Continued
	Expert Space, a comprehensive digital curriculum, includes more than 100 topics and 125,000 articles, aligned to the most commonly taught subjects in Science and Social Studies. _Expert Space_ includes several supports for students, including:
	
	▪ Read Aloud—Reluctant readers and English Language Learners can have the text read aloud
	▪ Leveled Text—Articles are written at three reading levels, which students can adjust themselves. These levels are based on the Lexile Framework for Reading.
	▪ Spanish Language Support—Many of the articles are available in Spanish.
	▪ Dictionaries—An embedded dictionary allows students to build their vocabulary by looking up any word in an article.
	▪ Anchor Videos—Each _Expert Space_ includes an anchor video which helps students build background knowledge and create a mental model of text.
	
	The Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) reviewed _Expert Space_ to ensure that it aligns with the principals for Universal Design for Learning (UDL), which was created to provide equal access to technology for all students.
	
	Expert 21 includes the following program components:
	
	▪ Annual Student Technology, Assessment, and Curriculum Subscription, including a full-year technology subscription to _Expert Space, Scholastic Reading Inventory, xSkills,_ program support and hosting, and Pupil Editions, Volumes 1 and 2
	
	▪ _The Teacher Bookshelf_, including
	  o Teacher Editions, Volumes 1 and 2
	  o Pupil Editions, Volumes 1 and 2
	  o The Professional Development Guide
	  o Technology Reference Guide
	  o Anchor DVD
	
	▪ _Expert 21 Toolkit_, including 300 _Expert Files_, and corresponding Teacher Guide
	
	▪ Annual Teacher Technology Subscription to the _Scholastic Achievement Manager_ (SAM), _Expert Space, Scholastic Reading Inventory, xSkills_, program support and hosting.
	
	📖 For additional information about _Expert 21_, visit www.scholastic.com/expert21.