Grolier Online®
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 *Grolier Online®* helps meet 12 of these requirements.

Required *Ed Tech* Components	📖 *Grolier Online*
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	*Grolier Online* has the features students and educators need to make research fast, productive, and targeted to each student's reading level. Built around eight databases, it contains two age-appropriate learning environments—Grolier Online Kids, for Grades 3-5, and Grolier Online Passport, for Grades 6+. *Grolier Online* gives students, teachers, and librarians a comprehensive research tool that is age-appropriate and academically relevant with access at home or school. <u>General Databases</u> 1. *The New Book of Knowledge®:* Reference and current events for elementary school and above 2. *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia™:* Articles and media resources for middle school and above 3. *Encyclopedia Americana®:* In-depth research and worldwide current events for middle school through college <u>Specialty Databases</u> 1. *La Nueva Enciclopedia Cumbre:* Complete encyclopedia for Spanish speakers and Spanish-language students 2. *The New Book of Popular Science:* In-depth coverage of science, health, and technology for middle school and above 3. *Lands and Peoples:* Up-to-date information on countries, cultures, and current events for middle school and above 4. *America the Beautiful:* Fact-filled, interest-driven resource for the states, noted Americans, and U.S. History for elementary school and above 5. *Amazing Animals of the World*—Comprehensive collection of over 1,200 animals for elementary school and above

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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	*Grolier Online* helps schools meet state standards in these and other areas: ▪ Content-area knowledge in all subjects ▪ Computer literacy ▪ Critical thinking ▪ Researching ▪ Problem solving ▪ Interpreting maps, timelines, and tables ▪ Writing ▪ Study skills With *Grolier Online*, schools and libraries can help students become lifelong learners who are able to use technology effectively to gather information, inform decisions, and solve problems.
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	*Grolier Online* is the most authoritative, age-appropriate research and learning resource on the Web. With two learning environments, eight curriculum-aligned databases and over 500,000 links to academically-relevant articles, Web sites and periodicals, *Grolier Online*, published on the Internet at http://go.grolier.com,.is the most trusted first stop in research for students, educators, librarians and parents. *Grolier Online*, available 365 days per year and 24 hours per day, is the definitive fully integrated database collection and online research portal designed to supplement the core curriculum and support the research needs of students and library patrons.
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	*Grolier Online* provides access to full-text periodical articles from approximately 1,300 periodicals, ranging over a six-year period, under a license with EBSCO Content Solutions, an imprint of EBSCO Publishing Company. These articles are hosted at EBSCO facilities in Ipswich, Massachusetts, and are available via direct hyperlinks within encyclopedia entries or by real-time full-text searches from the Grolier Online Periodical Search Results page. Articles are accessible directly from the search results page and from the encyclopedia entries in the *Encyclopedia Americana, Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia,* and the *New Book of Knowledge*. *Grolier Online* articles are searchable by Lexile® level, providing results that match content with students' reading abilities. More than 100,000 *Grolier Online* reference articles have been leveled according to the Lexile Framework® for Reading, the most accurate and effective method of matching readers to text. Lexile® Level Search Results make it easier than ever to match *Grolier Online* resources with students at different reading levels. A better match with student reading ability means greater reading comprehension, and increased confidence and success for young researchers.

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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	*Grolier Online* users have access to *GO University*, a free monthly online delivered training session. Additional training is available from Scholastic on a fee-basis. In addition, all *Grolier Online* users have access to an engaging online tutorial, which provides a basic, 10-minute introduction to the program's features and homepages/environments. (Flash, html, and printable versions are available). Users will also have access to the *Grolier Online* User's Guide available in the *For Educators* section, which includes an introduction about navigating each database, plus activities to help students improve research, navigation, reading comprehension, and critical thinking skills.

Grolier Online includes a *For Educators* feature, accessible via the *Grolier Online Kids* and *Grolier Online Passport* research environments, offering teachers and library media specialists an array of resources that support differentiated instruction and content-area learning. Included in this section are:

- Lesson Plans: Hundreds of lesson plans aligned to state and national standards.

- Search Articles by Lexile® Level: Teachers and library media specialists can search Grolier Online articles by Lexile® Level. More than 100,000 non-fiction articles have been leveled using the Lexile Framework® for Reading. Media specialists and teachers can use the Grolier Online Lexile search to identify non-fiction articles targeted to student's unique reading levels.

- Printed Materials: A collection of graphic organizers for students and teachers, as well as other resources, such as tools to promote Grolier Online in the school and library.

- Pro/Con Debates: Debate topics from the Pro/Con print series. Debates include associated lesson plans.

- Professional Development Web Links: Sites are carefully selected to provide resources for professional development, teaching strategies, information literacy, and other education topics.

- Featured Lesson Plan: A selected lesson plan is featured monthly.

- Teaching the News: A weekly feature, Teaching the News, creates a complete lesson plan around a selected current events story from *NewsNow*.

- Educator Toolkit: Includes resources to teach educators how to integrate Grolier Online into the classroom, including: the *Grolier Online User's Guide*, Grolier Online Tutorial, *GO News* and an E-mail update.

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6. Technology type and costs: A description of the type and costs of technology to be acquired with education technology funds, including provisions for interoperability of components	General Requirements Scholastic recommends a high-speed connection for best results. *Grolier Online* will run on *Netscape Navigator* 7.x and higher and *Internet Explorer 5.x* and higher. The browser must have *JavaScript* enabled and be set to accept all cookies. For PC users: Scholastic recommends *Pentium II* processor with 128 MB of RAM with *Windows 2000* or *Windows XP* operating systems. The following browsers are recommended: IE 6.0 and higher, Netscape 7.0 and higher, and *Firefox* 1.0 and higher. A 15-inch monitor with resolution set at 1024 x 768 with high 16-bit colors, or higher selected is recommended for best viewing. For Mac users: Scholastic recommends running under system 9.x or better on a *PowerMac* or higher. Best displayed on a monitor of 15-inch with resolution set at 1024 x 768 for best viewing with "thousands of color" selected. The following browsers are recommended: *Safari* 1.0 and higher, *Netscape* 7.0 and higher, and *Firefox* 1.0 and higher.
7. Coordination with other resources: 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	*Grolier Online* can be integrated with funds and money from state, local, and other sources. The federal funding programs for which it qualifies include: ▪ Title IA—Improving Basic Programs ▪ Title IID—Enhancing Education through Technology ▪ Title III—English Language Acquisition ▪ 21st Century Community Learning Centers ▪ Enhancing Education through Technology ▪ GEAR Up ▪ Smaller Learning Communities ▪ IDEA, Part B ▪ IDEA, *Response to Intervention*
8. Integration of technology with curricula and instruction: 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	Accessible from the *GO Passport* Home Page, *NewsNow* is a comprehensive news area designed to address current events needs of older students. *NewsNow* includes: ▪ Daily News from the Associated Press (updated with three new stories Monday through Friday); ▪ Feature Stories: Three or four weekly feature stories (some with lesson plans and other teacher resources); ▪ International News Desk: News briefs from around the world (updated weekly); *(Continued)*

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Integration of technology with curricula and instruction: Continued	• <u>World Newspapers:</u> A searchable database of newspapers from countries worldwide. Includes Web links to International Newspapers in the language that they are published. For example, Cuba's _Granma_ and Mexico's _El Economista, El Heraldo, El Informador, La Nota,_ and _Meridiano._
	• <u>From the Editor's Desk:</u> Pro/Con debates, Editor's Picks, and Editorial Opinion, all aimed at teaching older students critical thinking skills using current events (updated weekly).
	• For younger researchers, the _GO Kids_ home page also includes information-rich, engaging news resources in the _NewsNow_ section. _NewsNow_ Kids is composed of three to four feature stories, with their associated materials, which may include a FastFact, Read More, Related Articles, and Lesson Plans.
	Additional Resources Supporting the Core Curriculum
	• <u>Grolier Internet Index:</u> A database of websites linked to individual encyclopedia articles for rapid access. All sites are evaluated and selected by the _Grolier Online_ editorial staff to ensure that the sites are authoritative and appropriate to an educational environment. (_Updated monthly_).
	• <u>Pro/Con Debates</u>: Included in _From the Editor's Desk_, a feature of GO Passport's _NewsNow_, are a selection of Pro/Con debates aimed at teaching critical thinking skills to high school students. Lesson Plans are included.
	• <u>The GO Atlas:</u> An interactive, educational atlas that can be used in several different ways. Users can browse through geopolitical maps "drilling down" to reach articles relating to countries, states, cities bodies of water etc., as well as to photos of many points of interest. Users can also navigate between map types, moving from geopolitical to thematic, historical, and exploration where these exist. Users can also search maps for specific locations. Longitude and latitude information is available for all major cities, as is a distance calculator, which provides mileage calculations in kilometers and miles.
	• <u>Bibliographies:</u> _Grolier Online_ contains over 30,000 article bibliographies citing over 136,000 print sources.
	• <u>Feature Showcase:</u> A multimedia-rich, interactive learning module with links to related encyclopedia resources, updated twice yearly with new high-interest topics tied to the curriculum.
	• <u>Dictionaries and Thesauri:</u> _Grolier Online_ includes seven different student dictionaries and thesauri.

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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	*Grolier Online* is an annual subscription-based program that is delivered over the Internet. *GO User's Guide* suggests multiple ways to integrate *Grolier Online* across the content area in elementary, middle, and high school classrooms, libraries, and computer labs. Educators can find project- and inquiry-based activities that allow students to conduct research for a purpose, think critically, and synthesize information. Activities align to national educational standards in social studies, language arts, science, math, and technology. *GO News,* which is published twice during the school year, covers timely issues and provides a basis for integrating *Grolier Online* into the curriculum. It equips teachers and media specialists with lesson ideas that emphasize inquiry-based learning. Educators can also find ideas for individual and collaborative projects that help students practice and apply research skills. Students and adults can easily access and navigate through *Grolier Online* references and databases using two age-appropriate home pages, timesaving searches, assistive technology, and remote access. **Home Page Options** The *Grolier Online Passport* home page presents a sophisticated design geared to Grades 6-adult. It provides enhanced search functionalities, in-depth current events taken from wire services such as Associated Press, and access to worldwide news sources. The *Grolier Online Kids* home page*,* designed for students in Grades 2-5, features a simpler search process and easier navigation. It includes age-appropriate current events taken from *The New Book of Knowledge* "NewScoops." At any time, users may easily toggle between the two home pages. Both home pages provide one-click links to *Grolier Online's* encyclopedias, dictionaries, thesauri, maps, teacher materials, and other resources. **Search Functionalities** *Grolier Online* employs enhanced search methodologies that accommodate the skill and interest levels of the user and help ensure successful searching and researching. Its unique simultaneous Global Search capability allows students to research topics across all the available databases at one time, including encyclopedia entries, Web links, periodical articles, news features, and media. Students can search for articles and illustrations by title or full-text. *Grolier Online* evaluates all linked Web sites to ensure that they are authoritative and appropriate to an educational environment. Each Web site has a brief introduction that saves search time. Enhanced search functionality includes search within search, spell checking, a thesaurus, and search queries.

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10. Parental involvement: 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	_Grolier Online_ promotes parental involvement by supporting home access for parents, which allows them to help their children with homework as needed. Parents can also review the online lesson plans and activities to learn about the subjects and skills their children are covering in school. When schools provide _Grolier Online_ to parents as a shared resource, they strengthen the home-school connection and promote increased communication.
11. 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	Teachers can monitor general usage statistics for _Grolier Online_ by visiting http://stats.grolier.com. Using their username and password assigned by _Grolier Online_ Customer Service, teachers can track overall usage of the program.
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	No additional resources are required in order to effectively use _Grolier Online._ Students and teachers have unlimited access to content aligned to the most commonly taught, researched, and studied topics in science and social studies; multiple reading scaffolds to ensure that all students can access this information; as well as, a comprehensive collection of articles, videos, images, timelines, maps, and primary sources.