



**STUDENT ASSESSMENTS FOR  
TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL EVALUATION SERVICE PROVIDER  
PUBLICLY-AVAILABLE SERVICE SUMMARY**

**FORM C**

This form will be posted on the New York State Education Department’s Web site and distributed through other means for all applications that are approved in conjunction with this RFQ to allow LEAs to understand proposed offerings in advance of directly contacting providers regarding potential further procurements.

<b>Provider Information</b>	
Name of Provider:	Scholastic Inc.
Provider Contact Information:	Diane Glass Scholastic Education 524 Broadway, Space 1044 New York, NY 10012 dglass@scholastic.com 212-965-7336
Name of Product Proposed:	Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI)
Does this product provide normative inferences about student growth? If so, how?	Results are reported as both criterion-referenced and norm-referenced terms, indicating students’ reading ability on the Lexile® scale and how their test results compare to those of other students. Reports include normative information of percentile rank, NCE, and stanine. This reporting is based on a 1998 linking study conducted with the Lexile® Framework based on a sample of 512,224 students from a medium-to-large state.
What are the grade(s) the proposed product covers:	K-12
What are the subject area(s) the proposed product covers?	Reading
What are the technology requirements associated with the assessment?	The Scholastic Achievement Manager (SAM) is the learning management system and technology platform for all Scholastic Enterprise Edition (EE) applications. EE applications take advantage of advances in technology and provide a platform for district-wide implementation of Scholastic programs.  SAM provides administrators with the ability to implement and monitor applications on a district-wide basis based on scalable technology, as well as district-wide capabilities such as district reporting, AYP demographic grouping and reporting, and AYP demographic filtering. SAM also provides teachers with multiple supports for data-driven instruction.  SAM Technology Platform SAM and EE applications are built using Internet and industry-standard technology in order to provide for

high levels of concurrent usage and reliability. EE applications use standard Internet components that simplify setup and optimize issues surrounding student access to servers. Clients run in standard web browsers and connect to servers over HTTP or HTTPS.

The recommended system requirements outlined in the following sections are based on a certification process in which applications are put through a rigorous set of tests to determine their stability, performance, and compatibility with each other and with a wide variety of hardware and software

environments. Scholastic lists requirements that have been tested and will be supported by Scholastic should issues arise. Noncertified configurations may be compatible with EE applications but Scholastic cannot guarantee support for these configurations.

#### Servers

All EE programs require a connection to a SAM Server. A SAM server combines the functions of an applications server (which runs the programs) with a database server (which manages and stores the data). In some implementations involving multiple SAM servers, an aggregation server may be deployed to pull together all student data from across the district into a single reporting database. All EE programs (including READ 180 Next Generation) use browser-based clients. Therefore, large media files (video, audio, animations) must be sent to the client over the network. To reduce network congestion, Scholastic recommends installing one or more Scholastic Media Accelerators (SMA).

The SMA is free software provided by Scholastic that sets up media caching on a district server.

System requirements for a SAM Server are as follows:

- Operating System:
  - Macintosh® OS X Server 10.4.11 (Intel only) thru Macintosh OS X 10.6.8;
  - Windows® Server 2003, 2008 (32 or 64 bit);
  - Novell SUSE® Linux Enterprise Server 10 or 11 (32 bit).

Scholastic recommends the use of 64-bit operating systems.

- Memory: Minimum 4GB of RAM (more for higher concurrency levels)
- CPU: Minimum Intel Xeon dual-core (higher

	<p>speed/more cores for higher concurrency levels)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hard Drive: Minimum 20 GB free space for single school servers, 200GB or more for large multischool servers.</li> <li>• Internet: EE v2.0.x requires all SAM servers to have Internet access.</li> </ul> <p>Customers hosting their EE applications from the Scholastic Data Center do not require a SAM server in the district.</p> <p>Scholastic recommends the use of multi-core Intel® Xeon® processors (or equivalent) operating at 2.0 GHz or better for servers. Faster processors, more cores, and more memory all contribute to the ability of the server to handle higher numbers of concurrent users and larger databases. EE v2.0.x programs have been certified for use with VMWare ESX.</p> <p>Scholastic EE programs may be installed on virtual servers using virtualization software such as VMWare ESX. Resources for the Scholastic VM should be dedicated, not shared.</p> <p>Scholastic EE programs are not supported on servers using the following operating systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Windows 2000 Server, Windows NT</li> <li>• Mac OS X Server 10.0 through 10.4.10.x</li> <li>• Novell Netware</li> <li>• Novell SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 9</li> <li>• Novell SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 (64 bit)</li> </ul> <p>Scholastic EE programs are not compatible with Power PC Macintosh computers or iPads.</p> <p>For installations that serve a large number of concurrent users or 100,000+ active student accounts, additional application servers may be required.</p> <p><b>Workstations</b> Enterprise Edition v2.0.x programs run on workstations that meet the following requirements:</p> <p><b>Student Workstations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Browser: Internet Explorer 7.x , 8.x or 9x, Safari 4.x or 5.x, or Firefox 3.x or later</li> <li>• Operating System: Macintosh OS X 10.4.11 (Intel only) thru Macintosh OS X 10.6.8; Windows XP SP3, Windows Vista Professional, Windows 7 Professional</li> <li>• Memory: 512MB to 1GB of RAM, based on OS</li> </ul>
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	<p>version</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPU: Intel dual-core or later (PPC Macs not supported)</li> <li>• Network: Network Interface Card supporting TCP/IP (wireless networks, including 802.11a, 802.11g, or 802.11n, are supported, but application performance may be limited by the network’s bandwidth capacity)</li> <li>• Screen: 1024x768 resolution or higher</li> <li>• Plug-ins: Flash 10.2 or later (set to allow the microphone), Adobe Reader or Adobe Acrobat 7 or later.</li> </ul> <p>Teacher Workstations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Browser: Internet Explorer 7.x 8.x or 9x, Safari 4.x or 5.x, or Firefox 3.x</li> <li>• Operating System: Macintosh OS X 10.4.11 (Intel only) thru Macintosh OS X 10.6.8; Windows XP SP3, Windows Vista Professional, Windows 7 Professional</li> <li>• Memory: 512MB to 1GB of RAM, based on OS version</li> <li>• CPU: Intel dual-core or later (PPC Macs not supported)</li> <li>• Network: Network Interface Card supporting TCP/IP (wireless networks, including 802.11a, 802.11g, or 802.11n, are supported, but application performance may be limited by the network’s bandwidth capacity)</li> <li>• Screen: 1024x768 resolution or higher</li> <li>• Plug-ins: Flash 10.2 or later (set to allow the microphone), Adobe Reader or Adobe Acrobat 7 or later</li> </ul> <p>Thin Client workstations have not been certified and are not recommended for EE programs.</p> <p>Enterprise Edition v2.0.x supports a wide range of client workstations running many different processors and operating systems. As a general rule, any workstation or laptop purchased in the last four years should be capable of running any Enterprise Edition application.</p> <p>A Note Regarding Netbooks: In the past two years, netbooks (laptop-format miniature computers typically configured with an Intel Atom-class processor, Windows 7, Vista, or XP, reduced local storage, 1 GB of RAM and a small display) have been gaining in popularity. Some models of netbooks are able to run EE programs successfully. Other models are not compatible because of inadequate local storage, underpowered processors, or screens not capable of displaying a minimum resolution of</p>
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	<p>800 x 600 (READ 180, System 44® and Scholastic Phonics Inventory require a minimum of 1024 x 768). In particular, Linux-based netbooks or netbooks with a maximum screen resolution of 1024 x 576 are not suitable for use with EE programs. Because of persistent reports from customers of problems with netbooks from many manufacturers, Scholastic does not recommend the use of netbooks with EE programs.</p> <p><b>Browser Settings</b> All workstation browsers must have the following settings enabled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flash: Should be version 10.2 plug-in (enabled by default) and must not be disabled;</li> <li>• Java: Should be JavaScript (enabled by default) and must not be disabled;</li> <li>• Pop-Up Blockers: Must be disabled, or Student and Educator Access pages excepted;</li> <li>• Security Level Settings: Default settings supported; IE Maximum Security levels not supported;</li> <li>• Images Enabled: Default settings are supported; Image Display must not be turned off;</li> <li>• Privacy Settings: Default settings supported; Maximum Privacy Setting (disabling cookies) not supported.</li> <li>• Mixed Content (Hosted Customers): Should allow mixed content (e.g. http:// and https://).</li> </ul> <p><b>Media Considerations</b> Starting with EE v2.0, media (CD or DVD-based media assets) must be installed on a server, not the individual student workstations. In small deployments, media may be served directly from the SAM server. For larger deployments where network bandwidth may be limited, the media may be installed on a media server close to the student workstations using a Scholastic Media Accelerator.</p> <p><b>Scholastic Media Accelerator (SMA)</b> The Scholastic Media Accelerator (SMA) is new software that can be installed on a separate server and controls all media for EE programs by creating a cache server to allow for faster delivery of media over the network.</p> <p>Scholastic recommends districts with low available bandwidth or districts that use Scholastic Hosting Services install the SMA. Additionally, districts with low available bandwidth and high concurrent usage of Scholastic programs may also wish to install the SMA.</p>
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Districts that wish to move media traffic off of central servers should also consider installing the SMA. Districts should evaluate their deployment to determine if it is necessary to install the SMA, and to determine where it should be installed.

The SMA requires a server with the following characteristics:

- Operating System: Windows XP SP3, Windows 2003 or 2008; Macintosh OS X 10.5 or later
- Processor: Pentium 4 processor 2 GHz or higher; Intel-based Mac
- Memory: Minimum 2.0 GB of RAM
- Hard Drive: Minimum 25 GB available drive space
- Drive Speed: 7200 rpm drive recommended
- Network: 100 megabit, Gigabit ethernet recommended.

NOTE: SMA currently does not run on Linux-based servers. SMA servers cannot contain any traces of SAM software, therefore aggregation servers cannot double as SMA servers.

#### Concurrency

Concurrency refers to the number of simultaneous users that may be logged into a program before there is a noticeable reduction in the program's responsiveness.

For certification purposes, Scholastic benchmarks using a Quad-Core Xeon server with 16GB of RAM operating over a high-speed network. In this configuration, SAM is capable of supporting 700 concurrent users in Fraction Nation®, 750 concurrent users in READ 180 and System 44, and 1000 concurrent users in all other applications. These benchmarks were established by simulating a district infrastructure with high-speed WAN, gigabit ethernet switch, and 100Base-T connections to all workstations from the servers described earlier.

These concurrence levels represent a best-case scenario. Real-world performance may be considerably lower as concurrency is affected by many factors, including:

- Network bandwidth across the enterprise
- Bandwidth utilization
- Packet prioritization availability
- Firewall configurations
- Processor speed on the server

- Server virtualization
- Available memory on the server
- Other server settings
- Content filtering settings
- Improperly configured virus protection software

In addition, concurrency is affected by running class, school, or district reports while students are using the applications. Impact from running reports is most noticeable when running large district-level reports or when a server is running near full capacity from student sessions. Therefore, Scholastic recommends running reports whenever possible outside of normal class time.

In testing, server performance was found to be comparable on Macintosh®, Windows®, and Linux® servers. To achieve highest levels of performance, multiple cores and a 64-bit OS (e.g., Windows 2008 64 bit) are required.

**Bandwidth Requirements**

As a rule of thumb, Scholastic recommends an average of 100 kbps of bandwidth per active workstation, bearing in mind that average, peak, and initial bandwidth requirements vary greatly depending on the product and the student, teacher, or administrator usage. For example, READ 180 uses only 4.4 kbps on average over a 20-minute session, but during Zone transitions in the software, as well as login and logging off, bandwidth can briefly spike to over 100 kbps. Similarly, uploading a long student recording will momentarily use significant bandwidth. Over a T3 connection (45 MB/s) this upload may only require a few milliseconds, but over a T1 connection (1.5 MB/s) the network could be saturated for several seconds.

No matter how fast a network you have between workstation and server, if other bandwidth-intensive activities (VoIP, streaming video, audio downloads, database backups, etc.) are running anywhere on the network at the same time, performance on EE programs (including READ 180 Next Generation) may suffer. For this reason, Scholastic recommends the use of packet shaping techniques on heavily trafficked networks.

EE programs operate over TCP/IP networks including wireless (802.11.a, g, n). When employing a wireless network, it is important not to overload the access point with too many connections, or student sessions may be

	dropped. Scholastic recommends using an industry-standard switched network for optimal performance.
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**Please provide an overview of your application for LEAs. Please include:**

- A description of the assessment;
- A description of how the assessment is used;
- A description of how scores are reported (include links to sample reports as appropriate);
- A description of how your organization supports implementation of the assessment, including any technical assistance. (3 pages max)

The Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) Enterprise Edition is a research-based, computer adaptive assessment for Grades K-12 that enables quick and accurate assessment of reading comprehension over time using the Lexile Framework for Reading®. The Framework was developed by Metametrics, an independent education company after 15 years of research funded by the National Institutes of Health. Administered in just 20 minutes, the SRI provides concrete reliable feedback and actionable data to identify situations that call for intervention, set and evaluate progress toward proficiency goals, forecast performance, and differentiate instruction.

SRI supports the development of two essential elements of reading—Comprehension and Vocabulary. SRI is designed to measure how well students understand authentic literary and expository texts of varying and increasing degrees of difficulty. SRI measures reading comprehension by focusing on the skills readers use when studying written materials from various content areas. These skills include identifying details in a passage, identifying cause-and-effect relationships and the sequence of events, drawing conclusions, and making comparisons and generalizations.

Producing a natively-generated Lexile® score, the SRI can be administered at any time during the school year. Scholastic recommends that SRI be administered 3-4 times a year, spacing assessments to allow time between tests for students to make gains through instruction and practice. Scholastic provides a Growth Expectations Guide tool that can be utilized to create individual goals for students and classrooms that reflect the learning needs of the students there. This method of individualized goal setting is likely most acceptable to teachers because it take in account actual needs and gaps of students for whom they are instructionally responsible. A second rubric which summarizes classroom performance supports evaluation of the instructional effectiveness of a learning community or a principals' impact of instruction.

SRI generates achievement reports disaggregating data by AYP/NCLB demographics with individual, class, school and/or district-wide reporting. Results are reported as both criterion-referenced and norm-referenced terms, indicating students' reading ability on the Lexile® scale and how their test results compare to those of other students. Administrators may choose to customize the number, name, and Lexile® range of the performance standards that are used for reporting SRI scores. The ability to adjust the performance standard proficiency bands allows educators to customize the reporting of SRI scores to specific district or state expectations. To preview sample reports, see: [http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/sri\\_reading\\_assessment/management\\_system\\_reports.htm](http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/sri_reading_assessment/management_system_reports.htm)

Scholastic recommends a full-day SRI Implementation Training for teachers and administrators. This training provides tips for administering the classroom-based SRI test and using the data to target instruction and monitor reading progress. Scholastic can also provide implementation training by interactive Webinar and a full-day Train the Trainer implementation training to build district capacity. In addition, data coaching is available to help teachers and administrators customize and best utilize data for instruction and reporting requirements.

Technical online support is provided through the Scholastic Product Support web site. Downloadable manuals, tech bulletins, web chat and a searchable knowledgebase are available 24/7. Product Support is available at 1-800-283-5974.

<b>Estimated Service Provider Costs (non-binding)</b>	
Fixed costs over a given academic year.	<p>SRI has two license types each sold with different components.</p> <p>The perpetual license models provides software, manuals and student license at a typical cost of about \$10.00 per student for most schools. Schools and districts would self host the server software and annual fees would include a per site product support plan of \$250.</p> <p>The other license type is the Web Subscription model where schools or districts purchase allocated amounts of student license each year for for \$6.00-\$7.50 per student per year. Scholastic hosts the software and no other fees apply.</p> <p>Both models have a minimum purchase of 50 licenses.</p> <p>To determine which deployment option is best for a particular district, contact Scholastic Technical Services.</p>
Per-student costs over a given academic year that are above the estimated fixed costs.	\$0.00
Time-and-materials costs that are limited to special services that are NOT required for standard administration during a given year (e.g., special professional development services at the start of a contract, standard setting if required, test augmentation if required, language translation fees for tests and supporting materials) and that are delineated on either a time-and-materials or a cost-per-service basis for each special service).	<p>Professional Training is highly recommended.</p> <p>In-person training are \$2899 with a maximum attendance of 20 individuals. This training covers the Lexile® Framework, classroom and schoolwide implementation, reporting and software training.</p> <p>SRI webinars are \$799 and run for two hours and provide teachers with software training only.</p> <p>Optional Data Coaching is available at \$2200 per day and is designed to help leadership interpret student performance data.</p>

<b>If approved as a provider of student assessments for teacher and/or principal evaluations, we are prepared to provide services to (Please indicate by clicking on the appropriate boxes below):</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>All</b> Districts/LEAs in the State of New York, or
<input type="checkbox"/>	Only to those eligible Districts/LEAs indicated below:

**For Assessments That Cover ELA and Math Only:**

Please mark with an “X” the elements below that apply to your assessment. If you project your assessment changing to include elements over the next three years, please mark the applicable year. Shaded cells represent NYSED’s suggested guidance to the field as New York State transitions to the Common Core.

**ELA: Non-Binding Guidelines for Phase-In of Common Core Assessment-Related Elements**

Elements	Applicable Year		
	12-13	13-14	14-15
Includes texts	x	x	x
Include texts – fiction and non-fiction		x	x
Include writing			
Includes writing from texts – fiction and non-fiction (from Social Studies / History, Science, and Technical Subjects)			x
Assesses listening			
Assesses speaking			
Assess all four domains of CCSS (Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening) with fidelity			

**MATH: Non-Binding Guidelines for Phase-In of Common Core Assessment-Related Elements**

Elements	Applicable Year		
	12-13	13-14	14-15
Has appropriate level of focus			
Has appropriate level of focus per PARCC frameworks			
Includes open-ended items			
Includes open-ended items that measure application			
Appropriate measurement of mathematical practices			
Has various assessment modes to demonstrate mathematical skills and concepts			
Assesses modeling			
Assesses fluency			

