



My Reading Academy™

Alignment to Academic Achievement and Funding Guidelines

At Age of Learning, we blend education best practices, innovative technology, and insightful creativity to create engaging and effective educational experiences that bring learning to life.

My Reading Academy is a groundbreaking, adaptive, game-based mastery solution designed to strengthen reading skills in as little as 12 weeks.

My Reading Academy uses unique patented technology designed to efficiently assess, continually adapt, and sustain engagement in order to accelerate learning in pre-K through 2nd grade.

This document outlines how *My Reading Academy* supports academic achievement and aligns to federal funding guidelines. Our goal is to help district leaders evaluate our research-based solution and explore the positive impact on students, teachers, and families.

At-a-Glance

	District Funding Allowances	My Reading Academy
ESSER I, II, III	Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (CARES/ARP/HB 133) Learning Loss Education Technology Summer School Activities Social and Emotional Learning Professional Development for Educators	✓
Title I	Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged Use effective methods and instructional strategies that are based on scientifically based research Provide opportunities for all children to meet the state's proficient and advanced levels of student academic achievement Strategies to Increase Family and Student Engagement High-Quality Professional Development	✓
	Title II: Improving Teacher Quality	✓
	Title III: Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students	✓
	Title IV, Part A and B: Student Support and Academic Enrichment	✓
	Head Start: School Readiness for Children, Birth to Age 5	✓

ESSER I, II, III:

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (CARES/ARP/HB 133)

District Funding Allowances

ESSER Learning Loss

(A) Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable to accurately assess students' academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' academic needs, including through differentiating instruction

(B) Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students

My Reading Academy Delivers

Built upon game-based learning principles,¹ *My Reading Academy's* student experience begins with a **brief pretest to place the child in their anticipated Zone of Proximal Development.**² Each game formatively assesses the child as they play and uses assessment data to adapt their Learning Path, scaffolding, and overall level of difficulty to ensure that the child is always working at the just-right level of challenge.

As each student engages in the learning experiences, the program continuously gathers formative assessment data. This constant flow of formative assessment data fuels the program's adaptivity, creating a personalized Learning Path for each child to ensure that they consistently work with the just-right level of challenge.

***My Reading Academy* addresses more than 400 reading skills and concepts, giving teachers individualized, highly specific student data to use for differentiation.**

Pretest, formative, and summative data are shared with teachers and administrators in a real-time, easy-to-use Dashboard.

Formative data are used to suggest offline activities that the teacher can use with single students or groups of students. Integrated formative assessments provide useful feedback during the learning process that can be acted upon to support learning success.³

My Reading Academy is a digital resource that blends instruction, practice, and assessment to help accelerate achievement.

Grounded in the science of reading and based on learning sciences, *My Reading Academy* delivers explicit and systematic phonemic awareness and phonics instruction, paired with rich reading and language experiences.

Each Learning Activity is built on an evidence-based learning progression. As a student progresses through *My Reading Academy*, the **Personalized Mastery Learning Ecosystem™** uses ongoing assessment to adapt to their Learning Path, scaffolding, and overall level of difficulty. Driving this system is a research-based Knowledge Map that outlines Learning Objectives and their prerequisite relationships.

1. e.g., Shute & Kim, 2014

2. Vygotsky, 1978

3. Shute & Kim, 2014

District Funding Allowances
My Reading Academy Delivers
ESSER Learning Loss

(B) Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students (cont.)

A partnership between science and practice creates robust instruction that leads to greater reading outcomes for students. Early pilot programs and studies show success in accelerating student learning and achievement. In spring of 2021, prekindergarten and kindergarten Texas students who used *My Reading Academy* for 10–12 weeks more than **doubled their knowledge in reading skills** within the *My Reading Academy* system.

***My Reading Academy* has received the Digital Promise Product Certification on Learner Variability**, which certifies that *My Reading Academy* has incorporated features and tools capable of supporting a broad range of learners in diverse learning contexts and creating multiple opportunities for differentiation.

(C) Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment

My Reading Academy's Family Portal allows parents and caregivers to **view their child's progress**. The portal also provides **offline curated Learning Activities** informed by a child's progress on their personalized Learning Path. These activities are structured to be a collaborative experience between the child and family.

(D) Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education

Through the use of the Teacher Portal, **teachers can track how often students log in to *My Reading Academy*** and their **total active time spent making progress** on their personalized Learning Paths.

To increase student engagement, *My Reading Academy* creates a three-dimensional, playful world with interactive characters. Games use elements of interactivity, adaptive challenges, and ongoing feedback to keep players engaged and motivated.^{4, 5, 6, 7}

My Reading Academy's aspirational peer characters connect with students, providing encouragement, modeling of learning behaviors, and parasocial connections. This creates meaningful engagement that supports both motivation and learning.

In a recent research study conducted by Age of Learning and WestEd, the findings concluded that **teachers found *My Reading Academy* engaging for students and easy to implement in classrooms**. All of them reported wanting to continue using *My Reading Academy* in their classes.

4. Bransford, Brown, Cocking et al., 2000

5. Gee, 2003

6. Shute, 2008

7. Rupp, Gushta, Mislevy, & Shaffer, 2010

District Funding Allowances
ESSER: Education Technology
ESSER: Summer School Activities

Summer learning and supplemental after-school programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months

My Reading Academy Delivers

My Reading Academy helps **strengthen reading outcomes by blending learning science with adaptive technology** that provides students of all levels with an individualized Learning Path. The program is built to close the opportunity gap by using **dynamic, interactive assessment activities** to evaluate what students know, what they don't know, and what they're most ready to learn.

My Reading Academy provides teachers with **real-time data and recommendations that can enhance and optimize instruction**. The Teacher Portal suggests groupings of students who are working on or are ready to learn the same concept. Within each group, teachers can see who is progressing through the concept and who needs support. The Portal recommends offline collaborative activities that can be used with the group to provide differentiated support.

My Reading Academy is designed to accelerate reading outcomes in as little as one hour a week for 12 weeks, making it an ideal program for the summer school environment.

Early pilot programs and studies show success in accelerating student learning and achievement. In spring 2021, prekindergarten and kindergarten Texas students who used *My Reading Academy* for 10–12 weeks more than **doubled their knowledge in reading skills** within the *My Reading Academy* system.

“They loved it. I’m telling you. Sometimes I give them free time . . . Usually, [on] Fridays, we have Fun Friday, and the district only allows certain apps on their iPads, so I tell them, ‘Okay, you can use whatever apps you want’. And I was walking around and everybody was on *My Reading Academy*.”

—Teacher, Texas

District Funding Allowances
ESSER: Social and Emotional Learning

ESSER: Professional Development for Educators

My Reading Academy Delivers

My Reading Academy students are working in their Zone of Proximal Development. By consistently working at the just-right level of challenge, students build several aspects of social-emotional learning, including confidence, persistence, and autonomy.

Thoughtful scaffolding and well-designed corrective feedback give students the motivation to keep trying after an errant response, which can positively impact emotional well-being.

In addition, students regularly interact with a group of core characters named Miracle, Bitsy, and Nano. These new friends model and encourage positive social behaviors, which can help students become a community of lifelong learners.

High-quality implementation and professional learning are provided to teachers and administrators through our **e-learning platform; videos, resources, and tech support are delivered throughout the year.** The *My Reading Academy* Teacher Professional Development Course focuses on building teacher and administrator confidence in launching the program, guiding educators in understanding their assigned Portals and how to interpret student data, providing ongoing opportunities for educators to explore additional areas of professional interest (e.g., group learning theory, Zone of Proximal Development, growth mindset).

“In my 38 years of being an educator, I have never seen anything have such a phenomenal impact on children’s achievement.”

—*Early Childhood Director, Texas*

Title I: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged

District Funding Allowances

Title I:

Use effective methods and instructional strategies that are based on scientifically based research that:

- (A) strengthen the core academic program in the school
- (B) increase the amount and quality of learning time
- (C) include strategies for meeting the educational needs of historically underserved populations
- (D) include strategies to address the needs of all children in the school, but particularly the needs of low-achieving children and those at risk of not meeting the state student academic achievement standards
- (E) include innovative teaching methods, which may include applied learning and team-teaching strategies

My Reading Academy Delivers

My Reading Academy is grounded in the science of reading to create systemic instruction to help accelerate reading outcomes.

The scope and sequence of instruction follows the Simple View of Reading⁸ and the findings of the National Reading Panel (2000), **providing quality instruction in both word recognition and language comprehension across the essential elements of reading: phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.**

***My Reading Academy's* reading experiences include rich and varied language, representations of cultures and ethnicities, and authentic opportunities to actively connect to the text.**

My Reading Academy has received the **Digital Promise Research-Based Design certification**, which certifies that *My Reading Academy* meets the highest rigor in research-based design.

My Reading Academy's standards-aligned games cover concepts and skills in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

At the heart of *My Reading Academy* is an innovative **Personalized Mastery Learning Ecosystem that adapts the game's Learning Path, scaffolding, and overall level of difficulty to meet the learner's needs.** A host of scientifically based research underlies the design and development of this system:

- **Mastery Learning Theory** aims to deliver personalized, ongoing assessment, feedback, correctives, enrichment, and alignment of the instructional components to keep the students in their Zone of Proximal Development, where they can reach their potential with guidance.
- **A robust Knowledge Map** is used to articulate the precursor, successor, and correlational relationships between and among content strands and Learning Objectives. As a result, the Learning Objectives are carefully ordered into sequences that support individual students' learning.

8. Gough & Turner, 1986

District Funding Allowances
Title I:

Provide opportunities for all children to meet the state’s proficient and advanced levels of student academic achievement.

Title I:

Strategies to Increase Family and Student Engagement

Title I:

High-Quality Professional Development

My Reading Academy Delivers

My Reading Academy’s standards-aligned games and reading experiences address pre-K through 2nd grade reading concepts, skills, and strategies. The program uses a Personalized Mastery Learning Ecosystem to meet the needs of every child, whether they require more practice with a concept or are ready for a challenge. **This system ensures that every child is appropriately supported and challenged to maximize growth.**

My Reading Academy increases engagement between teachers and families, viewing them as learning partners, by providing access to an online Family Portal. The home-school connection is also facilitated, as teachers can use digital Teacher Dashboards to share progress reports and student work through the *My Reading Academy* platform.

The Family Portal provides an overview of the child’s weekly usage, progress, and action items, as well as recommended activities that parents and caregivers can do at home to strengthen their child’s understanding of specific concepts.

The Family Portal also provides explanations for why the concept or skill is important for the child to learn. **The Notifications given provide parents and caregivers information on learning goal completion, progress, and accomplishments to celebrate.** Thus, *My Reading Academy* has the unique potential to foster the home-school connection and help schools and educators extend learning at home as well as during breaks.⁸

High-quality implementation and professional learning are provided to teachers and administrators through our **e-learning platform, with videos, resources, and tech support delivered throughout the year.** The *My Reading Academy* Teacher Professional Development Course focuses on building teacher and administrator confidence in launching the program, guiding educators in understanding their assigned portals, interpreting student data, and providing ongoing opportunities for educators to explore additional areas of professional interest (e.g., group learning theory, Zone of Proximal Development, growth mindset).

8. Gough & Turner, 1986

My Reading Academy™

My Reading Academy is an adaptive, game-based mastery solution that is designed to provide continuous assessment, adapt to individual learning needs, and sustain learner engagement to accelerate learning.



Learn More!

