

Achieve3000

Program Description

Achieve3000 is a web-based differentiated K-12 reading program that uses email, technology, and current events to strengthen students' literacy skills. Based on scientific research on how children learn to read effectively, Achieve3000 helps students reach and exceed the appropriate reading and writing levels through individualized teaching. By tailoring lessons to match each student's own reading level, all students can read the same article and participate in class discussions together. Achieve3000 articles are correlated to New York State English as a Second Language and English Language Arts standards and are appropriate for grade-level instruction.

Achieve3000 offers the program in full Spanish, English with Spanish support and English. Students can master essential reading comprehension and writing skills using daily non-fiction personalized for their English or Spanish reading level. Both the full Spanish and full English programs have an online assessment which identifies each student's reading level. Students experience a smooth transition from the full Spanish text version to the full English program or the English with Spanish support program as they master the five-step routine and develop additional literacy skills in the native language. The English with Spanish support program provides native language instruction and assistance as students move towards proficiency in English.

Achieve3000 addresses the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs)— including Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE) and long-term ELLs (LTEs)—by building skills in reading comprehension, vocabulary and writing. Because the program takes current articles from the Associated Press and rewrites them for twelve different reading levels, students have access to high interest articles that are motivating and relevant to various areas of study, e.g., health, history, education, the environment, technology, business, spotlight on people, elections, and arts and entertainment. Achieve3000 benefits include:

- Opportunities to differentiate instruction for heterogeneous groupings in English and Spanish;
- Texts that are read aloud for students at the Beginning Reader (BR), 1, or 2 reading levels;
- Use of the native language for SIFE and new arrivals with low literacy skills;
- Opportunities to gain self-esteem for long-term ELLs who are below grade-level in literacy;
- Access to a web-based writing center which provides a host of activities, prompts, and graphic organizers to assist students as they develop skills in expository and persuasive writing.

Program Implementation

The program strengthens vocabulary, comprehension, reading fluency and writing using five steps to literacy achievement. These steps are aligned with best practices outlined by the National Reading

Panel. The steps use pre-reading, during reading, and after-reading activities to help students construct meaning from the text. The five steps are:

- Read and respond to KidBiz or Teenbiz email.
- Read the article of the day.
- Do the activity.
- Answer the thought question.
- Vote in the poll.

Students may complete the five-step process without teacher intervention which fosters independent learning. Some teachers elect to scaffold some of the activities by pre-teaching vocabulary, activating prior knowledge, developing schema, and building curriculum units.

Professional Development

Achieve3000 staff members deliver professional development and assist schools with program implementation, quickly designing and initiating programs to meet school and/or district objectives. Workshops introduce teachers to both the student and teacher editions of the program and provide guidance on managing the program and integrating it into the classroom, (including LevelSet administration and class list setup). Teachers also learn to use various data reports to ensure that students are making progress.

Infrastructure and Cost

To launch Achieve3000, your school must have a computer lab or laptops with reliable internet access. Student must have computer access at least 3-4 times a week and both students and teachers must participate in training. Also, a plan for monitoring and evaluating how the program helps students in their literacy classes must be in place before the program begins. Contact an Achieve3000 sales representative for cost information

Target Population and Model Sites

If your school's ELLs might benefit from additional support in reading comprehension and writing, visit some of the model sites around the city, including William Cullen Bryant High School, Manhattan International, Jamaica High School and PS 105. Contact Anna Maria Mulé to schedule an appointment.

Office of ELLs liaison:

Anna Maria Mulé, Curriculum Specialist, amule@schools.nyc.gov, 212.374.5079

Achieve3000 liaison:

Joe Panzitta, NYC Regional Director; Nicole Reilly, Implementation Manager, 1091 River Avenue, Building #1, Lakewood, NJ 08701, 888.968.6822.