

Santa Barbara County
United for Literacy
Initiative

FAQ'S

Frequently asked questions about a READING PLUS pilot:

1. What type of computers do we need?

Desktop or laptop computers with Windows 2000, XP, Vista, Windows 7 or Macintosh OS X 10.3.9+,
JAVA Plug-in 1.5.0--10+, IE 6.0+, Firefox 1.6, Safari 1.2+ ... Flash Plug 8+.... 500 Mh2+ CPU w/256 MB
RAM ... Monitor resolution 1024X768 ... Pop up blockers disabled ... Exit all applications before login

2. Do we need a server?

READING PLUS does not require a server. READING PLUS is hosted by Taylor Associates with full data security; the program is accessed over the internet. Computers must have Internet access, "hard-wired" or wireless. It is suggested that a READING PLUS icon is placed on the desktop for easy access.

3. Do we need any other types of equipment?

Headphones should be available. Students are introduced to READING PLUS and to each of the components of the program by watching short videos. The vocabulary development component includes pronunciation of each new word that is introduced.

4. How many computers can we put this on?

The pilot can be accessed on multiple stations, in a lab and and/or in multiple classrooms. Students can also be given access to READING PLUS at home or on laptops for access anywhere with internet connectivity.

5. Who does the installation?

School or district personnel with assistance from the local distributor as needed. Taylor Associates can check to be sure all programs such as JAVA and Flash are up to date. Taylor Support is available for help as needed.

6. How many students can use the program?

For the pilot we suggest the number of students be manageable for the teacher. As an example this might be 25 students for an 8 to 10 week period. This may vary and will be determined during the assessment and implementation planning meeting.

When purchased an unlimited number of students can be enrolled in the program. It only takes a few minutes to enroll a class of students and the student list may be imported into the READING PLUS Database.

7. Is there training and how many teachers may we train for the pilot?

READING PLUS is easy to implement and use, in-service training is essential and will be provided by The Ware Group at no cost. Teachers and Administrators learn how to set up classes and

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monitor students and interpret the data. We suggest that one or two teachers participate in the pilot. All teachers participating in the pilot will need to attend in-service training.

8. How long is the training and is there a cost?

There is no cost for the initial training for the pilot. This includes a 3 hour start up session with a follow up 2 hour session. The in-service training is a "hands-on" implementation of the program. This includes an introduction to READING PLUS, class set up and student entry. When READING PLUS is purchased additional in-service training can be scheduled for \$700.00 for a half day or \$ 1,200.00 for a full day. A \$ 2,500.00 package can be purchased that provides 5 half days to be scheduled as needed.

9. Is there a cost for the software?

There is no cost for the use of the READING PLUS software during the pilot or any obligation to purchase. The school will be responsible for providing headsets.

10. What will the pilot "look like"?

The intent of the pilot is to determine the suitability of READING PLUS and benefits to the targeted students. It is recommended the students access to the program a minimum of 3 up to 5 sessions per week for a minimum of 45 minutes per session. The Ware Group will monitor usage and assist as necessary especially as you start to examine student progress and the data.

11. How do we place students? Is there a placement program?

The READING PLUS, RPA (Reading Placement Appraisal) provides assessment and automatic placement into a prescriptive instructional plan. READING PLUS will make instructional adjustments and make appropriate changes as the student progresses through the program.

12. How long can we pilot the program?

A pilot will normally run 8 to 10 weeks up to a full semester. Longer periods will be considered upon request based on usage and commitment to the program.

13. What happens at the end of the pilot?

At the end of the pilot The Ware Group will review overall usage and results with administration and key staff. This information will help in determining the number of concurrent users needed when purchasing. The READING PLUS account will remain active if a purchase is being made. Arrangements can be made to have the account remain active as anticipated funding becomes available. Access to READING PLUS will be terminated if the program will not be purchased.

14. What populations can we use READING PLUS with?

Reading PLUS is recommended for English Language Learners, Special Needs, and English only students lacking silent reading proficiency with good comprehension. This can be the remedial student (3 or more grade levels behind in reading) the corrective student (up to 2 grade levels

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behind in reading) or the developmental student (at or above grade level but lacking an appropriate silent reading rate with comprehension)

15. What is the expectation on the school and the teachers?

Those participating, including both teachers and administrators need to be fully aware of and agree to scheduling of the appropriate in-service training and student participation of 45 to 50 minutes 3 to 4 times per week for a successful pilot. 60 Guided Reading sessions of 25 min each with 70% comprehension is a good guide line for success

16. Do we need to complete a survey or do we get an evaluation at the end?

No survey is required. The Ware Group would like to review summary and detail reports of student, class and school performance and to gather feedback from staff. This will help in the implementation planning.

17. What is the cost if we decide to invest in READING PLUS?

READING PLUS is licensed based on the number of concurrent (simultaneous) users. There is no limit to the number of students that can be enrolled in the program at the same time.

18. A proposal is written based on the specific needs and budget of the participating school.

A proposal will be written specifically for the school participating in the pilot. Special District Advantage pricing is available, providing each school the lowest possible implementation cost.

For More Information Please Visit:

- **Reading Plus Virtual Tour:**
<http://www.readingplus.com/virtualltour/index.html>
- **The Fundamental Reading Process (how the student processes the printed page):**
<http://www.readingplus.com/users/help/training/index.html>
- **Reading Plus Research:**
<http://www.readingplus.com/main/research.html>
- **Reading Plus Video Help:**
<http://www.readingplus.com/users/help/training/index.html>
- **Reading Plus Visagraph Help:**
<http://www.readingplus.com/users/help/visagraph/index.html>
- **Reading Plus Reference:**
<http://www.readingplus.com/users/help/rp36/index.html>