

| R | E | A | L |
READ EXCEL ACHIEVE LEAD®

Implementation Guide

Everything you need to set up and facilitate
a successful mentoring program





| **R** | **E** | **A** | **L** |

READ EXCEL ACHIEVE LEAD®

Mentoring **Students** to Read. Excel. Achieve. Lead.

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Visit real.scholastic.com to download a digital-only Mentor Success Guide, as well as digital copies of the Implementation Guide and Community Recruiting Guide. Plus, you'll find editable letter templates along with additional recruiting tools.

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Program Overview

A Simple Model

Research shows that reading aloud to a child is the single most important thing a caring adult can do to nurture a child's reading and learning skills. Mentors—community members who visit schools to read aloud and discuss books—help inspire children to discover the joy of reading and develop the literacy skills, while reducing the number of kids who are disconnected from school.

1. Recruit

District and school leaders recruit volunteers within the community to be literacy champions for each class of students within preK–grade 8.

- Use the **letters and forms** provided to make recruitment and communication simple. Head to real.scholastic.com to download additional support in the **Community Recruitment Guide**.

2. Read

Students gain new models for thinking more deeply as they listen to mentors read aloud and participate in class conversations about issues from the book.

- Mentors read and discuss **high-interest, grade-appropriate books** during **one-hour visits**. The read-aloud guidance and easy-to-use discussion prompts provided in the **Mentor Guides** will get conversation flowing.

3. Inspire

In the words of a R.E.A.L. Mentor, “I was amazed to see that in one hour a month, I could have such a positive impact on a child.” Students are excited by the mentor visits, and everyone is enriched—students, mentors, and the community.

- All your students receive their own copy of **each book to build their home libraries**. Activities in the **Student Guides** elicit thinking and writing, while **Family Guides** support at-home literacy involvement.



Components That Work

Books

The R.E.A.L. titles are curated to provide an enjoyable listening experience and spark meaningful discussion between mentors and students. In the books, students will encounter a diversity of topics, characters, settings, experiences, authors, illustrators, and genres. The books are a rich opportunity to make real-life connections, develop self-awareness, and build background knowledge.

► Diversity.

Race and culture. Physical disability and mental health. Immigration, friendship, space, plants, animals, ghosts, food, loss, achievement, and much more.



► Interdisciplinary.

Literacy, history, science, math, social-emotional skills, and creativity come together with these books and guides.

► Values and Role Models.

Both fiction and nonfiction books express the importance of social-emotional skills such as persistence, respect, teamwork, patience, courage, and relationship-building. Students will carry these values off the page and into their everyday lives.



Titles are subject to change.

Mentor Guides

Mentor Guides are easy to use and designed for mentors who are not educators.

Scripted Approaches.

Mentors begin with tips for previewing each book with students and building background knowledge.

Discussion.

Read-aloud guidance, such as “pause points” with open-ended questions, drives conversation both during and after the read-aloud.



Student Guides

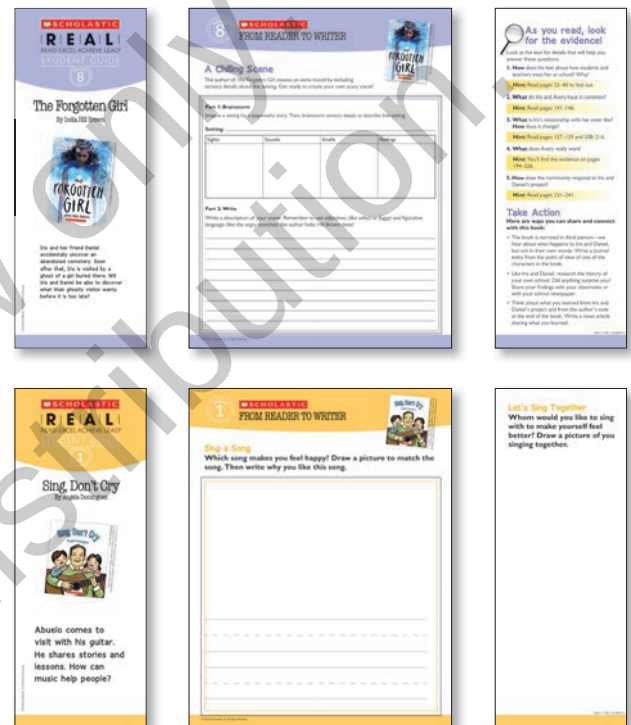
Student Guides provide practical ways to comprehend, analyze, and connect to the books.

Standards Connections.

Students will look for evidence, read for meaning, and respond to the ideas in the book through speaking and writing.

Real Life.

Engaging activities help readers connect each book to their own lives and to the world.



Age-appropriate approach

Family Guides

Family Guides provide easy, actionable ways to respond to books and build literacy skills at home.

Joyful Activities.

Families will enjoy crafts, hands-on play or construction, games, and much more.

Thought-Provoking Discussions.

Books act as the jumping-off point for crucial conversations about social-emotional skills as well as understanding our world.



All guides are available at real.scholastic.com

How to Implement



Recruit Mentors

Make Your Recruitment Plan

- Identify a district and/or school mentorship team of two to five staffers. Designate one person to coordinate the recruitment.
- Have the mentorship team make a list of possible mentors. Advise them to start with people they know.

TIP The most reliable pool of potential volunteers may come from school families.

- Make an outreach list of PTAs, unions, Chambers of Commerce, places of worship, colleges, universities, and local businesses.

Launch Your Outreach

- Send the mentor invitation emails. See page 12 and go online for editable versions of additional letters. Follow up with phone calls as needed.
- Spread the word on social media, such as LinkedIn and Facebook community groups.
- Send the mentor application on page 13. Follow district requirements for security clearance measures.



Communicate

Spread the Word

- Identify a district and/or school communications team to spread the word about the program.
- Build buzz with a media blitz, if you'd like! Target local radio and television stations.

Prep for the Program

- Consult your school calendar to set dates for mentor visits.

Inform the School Community

- Post information on the district website.
- Introduce the program to school administrators, teachers, and facilitators (see page 9).
- Send selected mentors the welcome letters and schedule (see pages 14–15), as well as the Mentor Success Guide at real.scholastic.com.
- Inform families (see letter on page 10).
- Provide ongoing communication with committed mentors and teachers.



Implement

Distribute the Resources

- If you haven't already, give mentors a schedule of reading dates (see template on page 15). Share the Mentor Success Guide available at real.scholastic.com.
- Distribute the Scholastic R.E.A.L. book and Mentor Guide for the first month to the mentors.

TIP Teachers or the program coordinator can give the next book and guide to the mentor at the end of each visit. You may wish to wait a few months to see that mentors are following through on their commitment before you give them more than one book and guide at a time.

- Guides are also available online to allow for virtual read-aloud visits as needed, once books have been distributed.

Keep in Touch With Mentors

- Principals or mentor coordinators can implement a monthly communication plan, thanking mentors for participating and reminding them of upcoming dates. Students can create handwritten thank-you cards to engage mentors. See real.scholastic.com for templates.
- If possible, provide a hospitality room and/or Facebook group where mentors from different classrooms can share experiences after their visits.

Celebrate!

Plan a Party!

- Invite mentors, partner teachers, participating students and their families—anyone involved in implementing the program to celebrate the program's success!
- Consider inviting the media or anyone that may be helpful in next year's implementation.

Party Ideas

- Balloons, banners, and music
- Short speeches by a few mentors, teachers, students, or administrators
- Recognition items for the mentors, students and their families, teachers, administrators, coordinators, and sponsors

TIP For certificates and recognition items, visit real.scholastic.com.



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Forms and Letters

The forms and letters in this section can be reproduced or customized to reflect your implementation of the **Scholastic R.E.A.L.** program. Note that you can tailor the pages and combine them in any way that suits your requirements. On **real.scholastic.com** and in the **Community Recruiting Guide**, you'll find additional personalized letters. Editable versions of all R.E.A.L. letter templates are available online along with additional recruiting tools.

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Scholastic **R.E.A.L.** is coming to our school!

Dear Teachers and Facilitators,

Our school district is pleased to announce the launch of an exciting mentorship program called **Scholastic R.E.A.L.—Read. Excel. Achieve. Lead.** This program is designed to deepen literacy and to instill a love of reading in our students through mentors who share an hour of their time once a month.

By welcoming mentors into your classroom, you'll support your goals of increasing reading excitement, strengthening speaking and listening skills, while building community connections at our school.

How the R.E.A.L. Program Works.

- **District and school leaders** recruit volunteers within our community as reading mentors to students in grades preK–8. The program coordinator will assign a mentor to your class.
- **Mentors** read and discuss a different book for an hour during each of the class visits (about once a month) using book-specific mentor guides. Each guide recommends sections for class reading and open-ended questions engaging book discussions.
- **Students** receive their own copies of the books to take home and share with their families. Encourage students to complete the activities in the Student Guide at home or in class.
- **Families** use the Family Guides to respond to books with discussion and activities, building literacy skills at home.

While most mentors are not educators, they bring important life experiences to share with our students. Your role is to support the mentors in your class by being there to assist them.

Thank you, in advance, for the important role you will play in making this program successful in our school.

Scholastic **R.E.A.L.** is coming to our school!

Dear Family,

Our school district is pleased to announce the launch of an exciting mentorship program called **Scholastic R.E.A.L.—Read. Excel. Achieve. Lead.** This program is designed to deepen literacy and to instill a love of reading in our students through mentors, who will share an hour of their time once a month. After mentors build reading excitement at school, continue the literacy conversations at home with fun discussions and hands-on family activities that will help build your child's confidence and motivation to read. Reading at home is part of the home-school learning connection that supports your child's academic success.

How the R.E.A.L. Program Works

- **Volunteers** within our community are recruited to mentor our students, including your child.
- **Mentors** read and discuss a different book for an hour during each of the class visits.
- **Children** receive their own copies of the books to take home. Please encourage your child to share the books with you and their brothers, sisters, cousins, and grandparents.

In addition, students will receive a **Student Guide** and **Family Guide** for each book. These guides provide questions to support the reading of the book and include special reading and writing activities to do as a family. Read the books with your child and complete the activities together. Investing time in shared literacy activities will boost your child's reading and critical-thinking skills.

By the way, if you or someone you know would be interested in becoming a mentor, please let us know!

¡Scholastic R.E.A.L. llega a nuestra escuela!

Estimadas Familias:

Nuestro distrito escolar se complace en anunciar el lanzamiento de un nuevo y emocionante programa de mentores, **Scholastic R.E.A.L.**, por sus siglas en inglés **Read. Excel. Achieve. Lead.** (Leer. Sobresalir. Triunfar. Guiar.) Este programa está diseñado para fomentar la lectoescritura y desarrollar el amor por la lectura en nuestros estudiantes, con el apoyo de mentores que compartirán una hora de su tiempo una vez al mes. Luego de que los mentores hayan despertado el entusiasmo por la lectura en la escuela, continúen las conversaciones sobre lectoescritura en casa con charlas entretenidas y actividades prácticas para realizar en familia que ayudarán al desarrollo de la confianza y la motivación para leer de su niño o niña. La lectura en casa es parte de la conexión de aprendizaje entre el hogar y la escuela que apoya el éxito académico de su niño o niña.

Cómo funciona el programa R.E.A.L.

- Se invitan personas **voluntarias** de la comunidad para ayudar a los/las estudiantes, incluido su niño o niña.
- Los **mentores** leen y comentan un libro diferente en cada una de las visitas a clase.
- Los/Las **estudiantes** reciben un ejemplar de los libros para llevar a casa. Anímenlos a compartir los libros con ustedes, sus hermanos/as, primos/as o abuelos/as.

Además, los/las estudiantes recibirán una **Guía para el estudiante** y una **Guía para la familia** con cada libro. Las guías contienen preguntas para reforzar la lectura del libro y actividades de lectura y escritura especiales para hacer en familia. Lean los libros con su niño o niña y completen las actividades juntos. Dedicarle tiempo a las actividades compartidas de lectoescritura ayudará a desarrollar las destrezas de lectura y pensamiento crítico de su niño o niña.

Si alguno/a de ustedes desea participar en el programa como mentor o conoce a alguien interesado, por favor, póngase en contacto con nosotros.

Become a **R.E.A.L.** Mentor!

Our school district is pleased to announce the launch of an exciting mentorship program called **Scholastic R.E.A.L.—Read. Excel. Achieve. Lead.** This program is designed to deepen literacy and to instill a love of reading in our students through mentors who share an **hour of their time** per visit. By reading aloud and talking with students, people like you help build reading excitement and community connections in our schools!

As a **R.E.A.L.** mentor, you will be given everything you need for impactful read-alouds. On **R.E.A.L.** Reading Days, you'll have your own group that you visit—and on each visit, you'll read and discuss one book, which will be provided to you in advance. You'll follow a Mentor Guide with specific instructions on what to read and questions to ask to engage students. You will also receive a schedule of your reading dates and a Mentor Success Guide with useful tips and information from other **R.E.A.L.** mentors.

Program start date: _____

Program end date: _____

Number of visits: _____

Your participation will have a genuine and positive effect on our students' lives. Scholastic **R.E.A.L.** is based on a simple idea: Every child needs a mentor. If you can devote one hour or more to this effort and to our students, please fill out the attached mentor application and return it to us.

Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you very soon and hope to see you in class! Please feel free to contact me at the email address and phone number below if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

My phone number: _____

My email address: _____

R.E.A.L. Mentor Application Form

Name:

(First)

(M.I.)

(Last)

Home Phone: ()

Cell Phone: ()

Mailing Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Name of Employer:

Title:

Occupation:

Employer Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Work Phone: ()

Email Address:

Which grade level (preK–8) do you prefer—if any?

Which school?

PERSONAL INTERESTS:

Hobbies:

Favorite book(s):

Do you have children?

If yes, how many?

Ages?

Languages spoken other than English:

Please EMAIL this form to:

Or FAX this form to:

Welcome to R.E.A.L.

Dear Mentor,

We want to thank you for your willingness to participate in our district's **R.E.A.L. Mentor Program**. We know that our students will be thrilled to meet you and will soon see you as a **R.E.A.L.** role model. Mentors like yourself help students shape their understanding about how books can touch every one of our lives.

Here's a brief summary of the R.E.A.L. Mentor Program:

- **You will have a “class of your own.”** Our students will get to know you—and you them. They will look forward to each of your visits, and we are sure you will feel the same way about seeing them. The classroom teacher will remain in the class during your session and help you in any way. The Mentor Guides provide instructions for the read-alouds and the book discussions.
- **You will have scheduled reading “dates” with your class.** We are attaching the schedule for your visits. It is critical to the success of the program that the students and we can count on you to make your dates. Your class will not want a substitute for you—we can guarantee that!
- **You will read a new book during each visit.** These books have been carefully selected, providing high-interest texts that align with the age of your class. There is a mix of fiction and nonfiction titles. The children will be given their own copies of the books to take home.

I have attached a Mentor Success Guide, as well as your schedule and reading list. All our school information and contacts are listed on these materials. The Mentor Success Guide and all book guides are also available at real.scholastic.com.

Please respond to this letter to confirm your participation.

Thank you again. We look forward to your becoming part of our school family!

Your **R.E.A.L.** Reading Schedule

Mentor's Name: _____

Where to Go

Principal's Name: _____

Name of School: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number of School: _____

Teacher's Name (your classroom): _____

Room Number: _____

Floor: _____

Grade: _____

Your Schedule

Session Number	Book Title	Reading Date
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

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“ This program has been a big success for us. Our students get extra attention from positive role models. On top of that, the mentors have developed relationships with the schools that have helped the district in ways we had not even imagined.”

—School District Superintendent

FOR MORE INFORMATION
SCHOLASTIC.COM/REAL