

How Aha!Science Meets Title II-D Goals

This guide is intended to help you with your grant applications by providing specific ways Aha!Science meets guidelines for Title II-D, the federal Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) program.

Aha!Science is a supplemental science curriculum that provides broad coverage of Earth and Space, Physical, and Life Science with integration of Science as Inquiry across all concepts. Web-delivered, it provides engaging, and motivating digital instruction and practice.

Aha!Science aligns with a majority of the 12 Title II-D guidelines, and can help your district qualify for funding.

Title II-D Guideline	Recommended Practice	Aha!Science Offering
1. Goals and Strategies		
<p>1.1 Identify and describe the State educational agency’s goals for using advanced technology to improve student academic achievement, and how those goals are aligned with challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students should use technology to work with core curriculum and complete assignments • Students should recognize technology in all aspects of life and use it appropriately • Students should become more efficient in their daily curriculum tasks through the use of technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aha!Science provides targeted instruction and practice that engages and motivates students to master science. <p>Aha!Science instruction and practice are accessed online to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • integrate technology into science instruction • easily assign digital science curriculum targeted to meet student learning needs • access high quality curriculum at home for extended learning outside of school • Aha!Science includes interactive Journals that offer an efficient means for students to access and submit homework. The Journals also make it simple for teachers to integrate literacy into science.
<p>1.2 Outline the State educational agency’s long-term strategies for improving student academic achievement, including technology literacy, through effective use of technology in classrooms throughout the State, and improving the capacity of teachers to integrate technology effectively into the curricula and instruction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve infrastructure and access to technology • Provide student and teacher training in technology and applied technology • Provide integration resources for teachers to use and build upon • Provide relevant, standards-based activities • Provide professional development for teachers’ ongoing training (teacher tech training, integration training, instruction about effective use of technology in classroom) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aha!Science can be accessed by any licensed educator or student from any Internet- connected computer – from the classroom, lab, library, community center, or home – at any time of day or night. • Aha!Science is aligned to the NSES. It is also aligned to state standards, making it easy for teachers to integrate digital curriculum into their core curriculum. • Journals offer teachers the opportunity to create their own online activities, combining text, images, video, and Web site links that can be used to integrate technology into the curriculum and extend science instruction into other subject areas, especially literacy. • Aha!Science includes online professional development on the program itself as well as models for integrating technology into instruction. Instructors specifically address use of technology in whole class, small group, individual, and center-based learning environments • Aha!Science content is ideal for use in in-house professional development programs and by science coaches to build teacher capacity in science instruction as well as in the use of digital curriculum.

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<p>1.3 Describe how the State educational agency will ensure ongoing integration of technology into school curricula and instructional strategies in all schools in the State, so that technology will be fully integrated into the curricula and instruction of the schools by December 31, 2006, as written in the original legislation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use technology increasingly and consistently as a tool to complete daily lessons and projects • Use portfolios to assess students' ongoing skills; track classes' progress • Provide resources for implementation of technology curriculum • Track and assess teachers' technology and integration skills • Provide means for collaboration and communication between relevant parties in the school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Aha!Science management system offers a tracking system that monitors student, class, teacher and school-wide progress to promote accountability. • Aha!Science supports automatic grading, observational assessment using rubrics, and teacher grading of Journals and online Activities for progress monitoring. • Aha!Science makes it easy for teachers to integrate digital curriculum into the core curriculum and provides administrators with tools for tracking usage of the digital curriculum by student, class or school. • Aha!Science allows for student group changes over time while meeting individual student learning needs. • Aha!Science Journals include a student/teacher communication channel for sharing information about the assignment. All Aha!Science student performance information can be printed or exported for easy sharing of information with parents or importing into information systems. Administrators can log in and generate school and district-wide reports showing student usage and performance.
<p>1.4 Describe how public and private entities will participate in the implementation and support of the plan.</p>	<p>Public School, district and state support – funding (grants), PTA support, program implementation, standardized tests</p> <p>Private Materials, hardware and infrastructure access, software, curriculum/training resources, professional development</p>	<p>As a private entity, Learning.com provides materials and resources on a yearly renewal basis for integrating digital curriculum into instruction and provides products, training, and professional development.</p>
<p>1.5 Describe how the plan addresses teacher preparation, professional development, and curriculum development to ensure that teachers and principals in the State are technologically literate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide ongoing support and training resources and materials • Provide opportunities for reinforcement and review of skills learned • Plan or step-by-step process to follow • Require a technology component and assessment for future certification and recertification • Incorporate professional development program for increasing tech and integration skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aha!Science includes online resources and professional development for ongoing training. Phone and email-based support are available to assist teachers and administrators. • Aha!Science includes instructional content that can be used to reteach, reinforce or review foundational concepts already covered. • Aha!Science uses a structured pedagogical approach that makes it easy to integrate into the core curriculum. • Aha!Science is digital curriculum and serves as an effective technology component for science instruction. • Professional development focuses on the use of Aha!Science as digital curriculum in the whole class, small group, and center-based environments as well as for independent learning.

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2. Accountability		
<p>2.1 Describe the process and accountability measures that the State educational agency will use to evaluate the extent to which activities funded under the program are effective in integrating technology into curricula and instruction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform classroom observation • Keep portfolios (class and individual student) • Require and review teacher created tech curriculum / integration plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aha!Science includes Activities for in-class experiments and inquiry learning. • Aha!Science includes real-time reports on student progress in science learning, conceptual understanding and questions attempted, number correct, and time on task. • The Aha!Science management system gives administrators the ability to generate usage reports showing the use of the digital curriculum for each student and/or for class, school and district. • The management system also provides teachers with the tools they need to create their own online curriculum units, blending Aha!Science content with their own experiments and hands-on learning activities and journal activities that integrate technology into their science curriculum.
3. Increased Access		
<p>3.1 Describe how the State educational agency will take steps to ensure that all students and teachers in the State, particularly students and teachers in schools served by high need local educational agencies, have increased access to technology.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify schools with high-need and/or low resources and increase infrastructure there • Distribute resources according to formula • Provide after school access • Provide online/distance learning opportunities in libraries or other community locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aha!Science is delivered online, promoting anytime/ anywhere learning. • Aha!Science can be used on any Internet-connected computer at any time, supporting a wide range of school technology environments. • Students (and teachers) can access Aha!Science from the classroom, the lab, the library, a community center, or from home – anywhere an Internet-connected computer is available to them.
<p>3.2 Describe the State’s long-term strategies for financing technology to ensure that all students, teachers, and classrooms have access to technology.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide what infrastructure/hardware needs to be acquired or improved • Create an upgrade plan • Create an annual plan for providing curriculum/training • Establish a minimum level of spending for needed upgrades, training, and ongoing curriculum resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aha!Science meets the needs of Title I, special education, and ELL students and therefore can be funded through Title I, IDEA-B, and Title III funds. School Improvement funds can also be used to purchase Aha!Science. • Aha!Science licensing models support multi-year licenses for district or school-wide adoption. Licensing models also support a phased adoption, with per student licensing for class-by-class or grade-by-grade implementation. Building licensing is also available to support a phased implementation by school.

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<p>3.3 Describe how the State educational agency will encourage the development and utilization of innovative strategies for the delivery of specialized or rigorous academic courses and curricula through the use of technology, including distance learning technologies, particularly for those areas of the state that would not otherwise have access to such courses and curricula due to geographical isolation or insufficient resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify online resources and curriculum • Look into state approval/adoption for materials that may provide discounts or subsidies for funding them • Establish distance/off-site labs in rural areas • Issue laptops with needed software to students in rural areas for the school year • Hold seminars/workshops in outlying areas • Establish toll-free or local toll number for students in rural areas to access the Internet and online resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aha!Science is an online supplemental science curriculum. • Aha!Science can be used for assignment and performance monitoring of students in remote locations. • Aha!Science is an excellent resource for use in 1:1 initiatives by providing instructional content to students and not just practice. • Web-delivered, Aha!Science is accessible by distance learners anywhere there is an Internet connection.
<p>4. Incentives, Best Practices, and Parental Involvement</p>		
<p>4.1 Describe how the State educational agency will encourage local educational agencies in the State to provide incentives to teachers who are technologically literate and teaching in rural or urban areas to remain in those areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide financial bonuses, perks, or benefits for certain levels of technology certification 	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p>4.2 Describe the technology resources and systems that the State will provide for the purpose of establishing best practices that can be widely replicated by State educational agencies and local educational agencies in the State and in other States.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide online delivered resources • Implement a standard curriculum and process for delivering it • Provide hardware/materials and consistent access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aha!Science offers flexible curriculum with a research-based instructional design. • The Aha!Science management system give states and districts the opportunity to convert their curriculum maps into actionable resources available online. • The Aha!Science management system gives states and districts the ability to define their own scope and sequence of instruction that optionally includes their own curriculum or references to third party curriculum, for delivery of a standard curriculum.
<p>4.3 Describe the State’s strategies for using technology to increase parental involvement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student portfolios to showcase work • Home access to online resources and materials for those with home computers • Public labs with access for those without home computers • Community/parent workshops showcasing and training with online resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent letters in English and Spanish notify parents that their students are using Aha!Science and provide information on the program and how the parents can support their child’s online learning. • Performance reports can be printed to send home with students or they can be stored electronically for distribution to parents via email, or at conferences. • Aha!Science is available at any time from any Internet-connected computer to any licensed teacher, student or parent. • Teachers may elect to provide parents with access to the same Aha!Science content assigned to students so that parents can participate in their student’s learning from any Internet-connected computer. • Aha!Science is an excellent focus for a Family Night, with parents and students “playing” the online math games and simulations using an interactive white-board.