



Growing Together with MY Access!®



Overview



Every year, the federal government provides billions of dollars in Title 1 funding for school districts to create and support education programs targeting disadvantaged students. Understanding that parent involvement is critical for enhancing student achievement and meeting the requirements of NCLB, the federal government recently awarded a one percent grant of total Title 1 funding to create programs between the school system and home. Unfortunately, if schools do not use the Title 1 dollars to provide a true “school-to-home connection” each year, the funding must be returned to the federal government.

To ensure schools take advantage of this unique opportunity, Vantage Learning has developed a comprehensive educational program, Growing Together with MY Access!®, fosters a true “school-to-home connection.” Involving parents or guardians in the learning process motivates students to achieve higher, while facilitating communication between parents, teachers, and students.

What Vantage Learning Will Do:

Vantage Learning uses Growing Together with MY Access!® to give each child a jump-start by improving his or her reading and writing skills. Even more, it helps parents gain a better understanding of what is happening in school by involving them directly in the skill development process. The goal is to encourage both parents and teachers to work together with students to provide an enriching and supportive learning environment at home and in the classroom. Through these joint efforts, students will find the motivation they need to reach their full potential and excel in school and beyond.

Dynamic Professional Development Plan:

1. For Students: Licenses for MY Access!®

As part of the Growing Together program, participating schools and districts will receive a pre-determined amount of MY Access!® subscriptions. MY Access!® is aligned with state standards and offers links to other essential resources for educators, students, and parents. Since MY Access!® is a Web-based program, it can be used at home, at the library, in after-school programs, or in the classroom—anywhere there is a computer with Internet access.

2. For Teachers: Learning to Use MY Access!® Workshop

If the participating school or district is a new user of MY Access!®, the Growing Together program includes Training Workshop #601. This session walks educators through the features and functions of MY Access!®, providing participants with an overview of the program from the perspective of both a teacher and a student.

3. For Parents: Workshops for Helping Your Child be Successful at School

Each two-hour session is offered either on-site or via the Internet on evenings or weekends. Additional workshops may be conducted if requested by the participating school or district.

a. Session 1: Getting Ready to Use MY Access!®

- i. Becoming computer savvy

b. Session 2: The Ins and Outs of MY Access!®

- i. Information that you and your child need to know about the MY Access!® program

c. Sessions 3 through 10: Ongoing Parent/Child Support and Enhancing Parent Participation

- i. Writing basics, plus writing to read and reading to write
- ii. Using feedback to enhance achievement
- iii. Maximizing the teachable moment
- iv. Communicating with your child's teacher
- v. Spotting opportunities for informal communications
- vi. Linking the home and school learning environments
- vii. Getting involved at school directly and indirectly
- viii. Becoming an ally in the education process

d. For Schools: Implementation Strategies

The success of the Growing Together program relies on a well-thought-out implementation within the school or district. Issues such as communicating the benefits of the program and creating “buy-in” among constituents, ensuring that the technology infrastructure can support the use of the MY Access!® writing program, and conducting comprehensive, convenient professional development training sessions are all part of a successful implementation strategy for MY Access!®. Additional technical support for MY Access!® is available via e-mail or telephone.