

Suggested Best Practices for Using Computerized Reading Management Programs

The primary purpose of a reading management program is to encourage students to read for recreation as well as for information. Students should have as positive an experience as possible in using a reading management program. Schools are encouraged to develop a system of implementation that will foster this positive reading experience.

Following are some suggested best practices to help achieve that positive experience.

- Encourage students to create advertisements for their favorite books. These include but are not limited to
 - o producing video book commercials that could be played during the morning news program;
 - o writing book reviews that could be placed on the school/school library web page and/or included in the school newsletter;
 - o earning extra credit in various subject classes based on the number of points earned;
 - o using points earned to pay for library fines or to pay for photocopies or printing in the school library.
- Recognize students for reaching their reading goal not just for earning the most points. If the number of points earned is the only criteria for recognition, then some students will never be recognized and, consequently, will not have that positive, self-fulfilling experience of being recognized as a successful reader.
- Encourage/expect students to set their own reading goals.
- Establish a Reading Wall of Fame, a Walk of Fame, Star Readers, etc. Recognize students at the end of each nine weeks for attaining their reading goal by putting their picture and name on the Wall of Fame. Set a schoolwide goal of recognizing every student in the school by the end of the school year.
- Publicize the Reading Wall of Fame (or whatever it is named) with articles in the local newspaper, on the school web page, and in the school newsletter.
- Use the computerized reading management program as only one part of a schoolwide reading program that would also include, but not be limited to, such activities as Children's Book Week, National Library Week, School Library Media Month, SC Book Award Program, Dr. Seuss's Birthday celebration.
- Allow students to read books that are not on the reading program test list.
- Allow students to read books that are not in their ZPD or Lexile range.
- Do not use the reading program's test list as the selection list for books purchased for the school library or for classroom collections.
- Allow students to use the book when taking the test. This will give the students practice in skimming and scanning text in preparation for such tests as MAP, PASS, HSAP.
- Do not use scores from the reading tests as part of a student's grade. These programs are incentive programs.
- Do not make taking reading tests mandatory. These programs are incentive programs and participation should be voluntary.
- Do not use number of points earned or number of tests taken as punishment that would keep a student from participating in classroom or school activities.