Altis Reach FAQ's and Grant Program Agreement

What is Altis Reach?

Altis Reach is an innovative literacy intervention software program designed to help struggling adolescent readers in grades 4-10 make dramatic gains in literacy and reading skills. The program's groundbreaking research-based, multi-cultural instructional design includes: integrated assessments; targeted, culturally responsive content; adaptive technology providing differentiated instruction; and creative motivational tools that accelerate learning and help students make permanent gains in reading.

What is the purpose of this grant?

The primary purpose of the grant is to accelerate the collaboration between Altis Reach and selected schools in their shared mission of boosting and re-engaging struggling adolescent students. Accordingly, Altis and Education Technology Partners are looking to establish working relationships with schools that have both the need and the desire to implement a high-quality solution for their struggling students. In exchange for a one-year grant covering 50% of the cost of both products and professional development services, grant recipients will be asked to implement the program with fidelity and to share pre and post assessment data to measure student gains.

What is the cost to schools for participating in this grant program?

Altis and Education Technology Partners is offering to school recipients the opportunity to receive 100 Reach licenses (valued at $6,800) for the cost of 50 licenses ($3,400). In addition, the school will receive two (2) days of on-site professional development at the rate equivalent to one (1) day of professional development, or $1,750 (plus trainer travel). The cost to the recipient is $5,150, representing a 50% matching grant of $5,150 for software and professional development that would normally cost $10,300.

What is the timeline for the Reach Grant Program?

Schools applying for a Reach Grant must submit an application no later than April 15, 2017. Grant recipients will be selected and awarded by May 1, 2017. Schools selected to participate in the Reach Grant Program agree to begin student training no later than September 29, 2017 and will continue student training, meeting fidelity guidelines, until May 4, 2018. All independent and Reach assessment and gains data must be provided to Altis Avante Corp. by July 1, 2018.

What requirements must grant recipients commit to?

1. Schools selected must commit to a student training schedule that meets Reach fidelity guidelines, and designate an administrator(s) who will manage and oversee the Reach implementation. Responsibilities will include; identifying target students, identifying teachers/aids who will be assigned to Reach training working with those students, coordinate planning, professional development and implementation activities, view reports on a weekly basis to monitor fidelity and ensure that recommended guidelines are being met.
2. The school technical administrator must review Reach technical specifications, confirm that the school network and computers meet all technical specifications, and agree to provide assistance as needed to support the teachers and students involved in Reach training.
3. Students targeted for Reach training should include a mix of Tier II and Tier III/IV students identified as not reading at grade level, in grades 4-10.
4. Altis Reach is a research-based intervention. As such, the Reach implementation must meet fidelity guidelines to ensure student success. Each school will create a Reach training schedule that ensures regular and consistent training meeting fidelity guidelines, as follows;
    1) Tier II students will train a minimum of 3 times a week for 30-45 minutes per session
    2) Tier III/IV students will train a minimum of 4-5 times a week for 30-45 minutes per session
5. Assessments will be administered at the beginning, mid-year, and end of the grant period using a nationally-normed assessment tool and school assessment data will be shared with Altis. Other data to be shared also includes: (i) student grade level, (ii) home language, (iii) eligibility for free or reduced lunch, and (iv) student designation as either Tier II or Tier III. With respect to special education students, the basis for their referral to special education will also be provided (e.g., language-based learning deficit, autism, etc.). A spreadsheet template will be provided to facilitate easy sharing of this data.
6. The data shared with Altis may be used by Altis and its partners in marketing materials. Note that personally identifiable student data will remain private and will not be shared with Altis.
7. School agrees to serve as a reference site during the grant period, and will allow interested educators to speak with or visit school to observe or discuss Reach training.
8. Headphones and headsets w/microphones are required for Reach training. School agrees to provide headphones/headsets, or purchase necessary headphones/headsets. Education Technology Partners is a Califone dealer, and will sell Califone products at a special discounted price to grant recipients.

How do I apply for a Reach Grant?

Please complete the Reach Grant Program Application at www.edtechpartners.com/altis-reach-grant and all applications are due **no later** than April 15, 2017. Schools who are selected for the grant will be notified by May 1, 2017.

What professional development will be provided to school administrators and teachers?

1. Teachers and staff members who will be conducting Reach student training, or involved with student training, should attend professional development. Reach professional development is comprised of two (2) onsite workshops, including;

   Reach Getting Started workshop focuses on the basics necessary for teachers to begin student implementation, and includes:
   i. Reach research and the pedagogy and methodology that determines how and why Reach functions as it does.
   ii. Reach student experience; discussion of the reading skills covered in each unit, including phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.
   iii. Reach assessments; including placement tests, progress monitoring, and oral reading fluency.
   iv. Reach teacher role; how to create classes and students, manage student use of the program, student motivation, intervention strategies, and fidelity guidelines. How to use and interpret Management System reports to monitor student progress and access data to measure gains.

   Reach Instructional Strategies workshop provides ongoing coaching with emphasis on implementation and classroom best practices. This professional development can be conducted as a group workshop, or in classrooms working with interventionists and students, and includes:
   v. Observation or discussion of strategies to monitor students in the classroom to ensure that students are actively engaged in Reach training.
   vi. Modeling effective best practices, instructional strategies and classroom activities to ensure timely and appropriate intervention for students needing assistance.
   vii. Ensure that students are progressing through their training programs with knowledge and understanding of the Mastery Criteria and the skills required to complete units.
   viii. Review and analyze Management System reports and data providing instruction on how to interpret reports, monitor student training, identify students needing teacher support, lessons and instruction to support struggling students.
   ix. How to administer assessments with focus on progress monitoring and oral reading fluency tests
   x. Meeting with administrators to review data and reports, and discuss implementation

2. **Ongoing Support** to ensure teacher and student success will be provided via email by Becky Jennings for the 2017-2018 school year.

The undersigned agree to the terms and conditions of the Altis Reach Grant Agreement as described above;

_____   _____
Becky Jennings, Reach Project Trainer & Manager, Education Technology Partners   Date

_____   _____
School Representative Name   Title

_____   _____
School Representative Signature   Date