

## **Classroom Connect, Inc. to be Acquired by Harcourt Inc.; to Become Part Of Harcourt Education Group**

BRISBANE, Calif., Aug. 28

Classroom Connect, Inc., a pioneer and leading provider of professional and classroom learning resources that foster successful use of the Internet in K-12 education, announced today that it has agreed to be acquired by Harcourt Education Inc., of Orlando, FL, one of the nation's most prominent and diverse K-12 educational publishing entities. Harcourt is a subsidiary of Reed Elsevier plc, a world-leading provider of information solutions to professionals in the science and medical, legal, education, and business-to-business fields. Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

The transaction enables Classroom Connect ([www.classroom.com](http://www.classroom.com)) to solidify its industry leadership, substantially strengthening its position in K-12 professional development, and accelerating the growth in depth and reach of its original, standards-based curriculum content. Classroom Connect will continue to operate as an autonomous business unit within the Harcourt Education group.

Classroom Connect is known for its personalized learning environment that integrates its award-winning professional and classroom learning resources, supported by onsite training and ongoing support. Educators have access to features and tools designed to help them enhance and assess their students' development of important skills in reading and language arts, math, science and social studies.

"We are enthusiastic and inspired by the benefits and shared values resulting from this alignment with Reed Elsevier and Harcourt. It is an excellent fit for us," said Judith Hamilton, president and CEO of Classroom Connect. "The move ensures our continued presence in the vanguard of our industry, and enables us to sustain effective expansion of our subscription services for K-12 educators and their students, so that they can benefit from their use of the Internet and its immense, enriching and reinforcing resources."

Tony Lucki, chief executive officer of Harcourt Education commented: "Classroom Connect brings our group the strength of a leadership position in the discipline of technology enabled learning, an area that we believe will be increasingly important in the future of the education sector. We are delighted to welcome Judy Hamilton and her team to our group and look forward to working with Classroom Connect in its future developments."

### About Reed Elsevier

Reed Elsevier plc is a world-leading publisher and information provider. It is owned equally by its two parent companies, Reed International P.L.C and Elsevier NV. The parent companies are listed on the London, Amsterdam and New York Stock Exchanges, under the following ticker symbols: London: REED; Amsterdam: ELSN; New York: RUK, ENL.

In 2000, Reed Elsevier generated revenue in excess of \$5.5 billion. The group employs 35,000 people, including approximately 22,000 in North America. Operating in the scientific, legal, educational and business-to-business sectors, Reed Elsevier provides high value and flexible information solutions to professional end users, with increasing emphasis on Internet delivery. For further information about Reed Elsevier, please visit the company Web site at [www.reedelsevier.com](http://www.reedelsevier.com).

#### About Harcourt Education

Harcourt Education is a leading broadband education provider. Companies within Harcourt Education include Harcourt School Publishers (K-6 leader, with greatest strength in science, reading, math and social studies); Holt, Rinehart and Winston (major 6-12 grade publisher, leading in literature and language arts, growing prominence in Math and Social Studies); Steck-Vaughn (supplemental materials); Harcourt Trade (fiction and non-fiction), and Harcourt Educational Measurement (achievement, aptitude and guidance testing services for K-12, notably the Stanford Achievement Test). For more information about Harcourt Education, visit the company Web site at [www.harcourt.com](http://www.harcourt.com).

#### About Classroom Connect

Classroom Connect, Inc. is a leading provider of professional learning and classroom learning resources that foster successful use of the Internet in K-12 education. Headquartered in Brisbane, CA, with offices in El Segundo, CA, Minneapolis, MN and Abilene, TX, Classroom Connect has more than 170 employees. Its primary brands include: Connected University(TM) (online professional development); Classroom Today(TM) (online classroom curriculum); The Quest Channel(TM) (online adventure learning expeditions); Connected Conferences(TM) (live, nationwide events); Connected Workshops(TM) (live seminars); and Classroom Connect Newsletter(TM) (monthly Internet education journal). Its partners include some of the nation's most respected organizations, including the American Museum of Natural History, the Library of Congress and NASA. For more information about Classroom Connect, visit the company Web site at [www.classroom.com](http://www.classroom.com).

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