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HARCOURT ASSESSMENT SCORES DOUBLE WIN IN KANSAS

**STATE SELECTS COMPANY'S READING ASSESSMENTS FOR FALL
DIAGNOSTICS AND SPRING PROGRESS MEASUREMENT**

SAN ANTONIO – Harcourt Assessment announced today that the Kansas Department of Education has selected two of its products to help the state meet the Reading First requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind legislation.

The state has selected the company's Early Reading Diagnostic Assessment™ Second Edition (ERDA™ Second Edition) for fall 2003 testing. ERDA Second Edition is a product of The Psychological Corporation, a Harcourt Assessment company.

Designed for use in kindergarten through grade three, ERDA Second Edition is an efficient, focused assessment of children's reading skills to promote reading proficiency. It is a nationally normed, individually administered diagnostic instrument that identifies young children at risk for reading difficulty or failure. Detailed, grade-specific information about children's reading development can help teachers target instruction to ensure that no child is left behind.

The state has also selected Harcourt Assessment's Stanford Reading First test to measure the results of schools' intervention and instructional efforts. Stanford Reading First is a product of Harcourt Educational Measurement, also a Harcourt Assessment company.

Kansas school teachers will administer ERDA in the first few weeks of the fall term to diagnose at-risk students who may need intervention and then test all students in grades one through three using Stanford Reading First during the last few weeks of the spring term.

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"We are in a unique position to help Kansas meet the Reading First requirements of No Child Left Behind," said Jeff Galt, Harcourt Assessment's president and chief executive officer. "We have two great products, one to diagnose the need for intervention and one to measure results, and we look forward to working with the state of Kansas to help its children succeed."

ERDA tests all five essential reading components specified in the legislation – comprising phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Based on the latest research, ERDA Second Edition provides valid, reliable diagnostic information specifying strengths and weaknesses. Designed with input from teachers who will administer the test, it offers easily understood reports for parents and school administrators, and enables teachers to group students with similar needs for instruction and intervention. With engaging items, this teacher-friendly test is flexible and easy to administer.

Stanford Reading First focuses on the same five essential reading components specified by the Reading First legislation. While ERDA helps teachers diagnose at-risk children and develop appropriate intervention programs for them, teachers will use Stanford Reading First to measure the progress of all students.

Stanford Reading First has a friendly design that engages children, helps them navigate from item to item and captures their attention with full-color materials and lifelike illustrations. It is aligned to state content standards, as well as national standards, including those of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the International Reading Association (IRA) and the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

Based in San Antonio, The Psychological Corporation is respected worldwide for its technically superior, industry-leading assessment products. The company publishes the Wechsler® family of tests, including the Wechsler

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Intelligence Scale for Children[®] and the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence[™], both of which are industry standards.

Also based in San Antonio, Harcourt Educational Measurement is a leading provider of high-quality assessment instruments and testing programs, including the Stanford Achievement Test series and the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test[®].

Harcourt Assessment is a unit of Harcourt, Inc., which is a global publishing and education company serving students and teachers from pre-kindergarten through grade 12, adult learners and readers of all ages.

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