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FOR RELEASE: Thursday, Sept. 18, 2003

**HARCOURT ASSESSMENT OFFERS STANFORD ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PROFICIENCY TEST FOR FALL TESTING**

FIRST TEST OF ITS KIND TO ASSESS ALL SKILLS REQUIRED BY NCLB

SAN ANTONIO – Harcourt Assessment has announced the availability of its Stanford English Language Proficiency Test (Stanford ELP) for fall testing.

Launched earlier this year, and already in wide use nationwide, the Stanford ELP enables educators to measure how well English language learners comprehend and express themselves in English. Educators can use the test to determine student placement and track student progress.

The Stanford ELP was the first assessment of its kind to fully meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act by testing all of the necessary language skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing – and comprehension. The Stanford ELP also measures proficiency in both academic and social language usage.

All portions of the test are group administered, except the speaking subtest, which is administered individually. The test is untimed so that students have an opportunity to do their best.

The Stanford ELP has four levels, with age-appropriate content for all school grades from kindergarten through grade 12: Primary level for grades K - 2, Elementary level for grades 3 - 5, Middle Grades level for grades 6 - 8, and High School level for grades 9 - 12. Each level includes questions covering a range of difficulty, from low to high.

“We designed the Stanford English Language Proficiency Test to assess students of all ages and grades so that no English language learner would be left behind,” said Margie Jorgensen, Harcourt Assessment’s vice president of product management. “The goal is to identify each English language learner’s

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existing proficiency level, enroll that child in appropriate instructional programs based on that measurement, and then reassess that child periodically and guide that child to full proficiency and full participation in English language classrooms.”

Harcourt Assessment has more than 35 years of experience in bilingual assessments. Its staff of experts in the teaching of English as a second language (ESL) spent three years researching and developing the Stanford ELP, using individual state ESL and TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) standards as the test’s foundation.

The Stanford ELP incorporates some of the innovative design elements of Harcourt’s Stanford 10 achievement test that the company also launched earlier this year. Like Stanford 10, the Stanford ELP resembles instructional materials that are familiar to children, and uses full color, interesting illustrations and navigational aids to engage children and take some of the anxiety out of test taking.

“Our goal is to design tests that motivate students and enable them to show us what they know and can do,” said Jorgensen. “Our studies clearly show that children are able to do their best when test materials have a familiar look and feel, appealing art work and visual clarity.”

Based in San Antonio, Harcourt Assessment is a leading provider of high-quality assessment instruments and testing programs. Its educational products include the Stanford Achievement Test series, the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test[®] and Aprenda – the first academic achievement test created in Spanish. It also offers a wide variety of clinical products, such as the Wechsler[®] family of tests, which includes the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children[®].

The company 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. Harcourt is a member of the Reed Elsevier Group plc (NYSE: RUK and ENL) -- a world-leading publisher and information provider operating in the science and medical, legal, education and business-to-business industry sectors.

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