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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Program Helps Students Succeed on High-Stakes Assessments

Achieve It! First to Cover All Tested National, State Standards

AUSTIN, Texas – Harcourt Achieve announced today the release of *Achieve It!*, a first-of-its-kind, standards-based program designed to provide differentiated instruction on the key skills students need to meet critical state and national reading and math standards.

Achieve It!, published under the Steck-Vaughn imprint, is the first program to cover all tested national and state-mandated standards in an easy-to-use, systematic manner, says Harcourt Achieve President and CEO Tim McEwen.

The program will be welcome news to educators, given that the No Child Left Behind Act mandates that by 2005 all students be tested in grades 3–8. New accountability standards also require that students show adequate yearly progress.

“There is a need in the market to meet individual student needs by differentiating instruction,” McEwen says. “Teachers are held accountable for their students passing standardized tests, and they want to better prepare students for high-stakes tests, but mastery of test-taking skills is difficult to teach.

“They really need a program to teach reading and math skills for achievement on all types of tests. This program helps teachers deliver targeted instruction to better meet individual needs so students can be successful.”

In fact, McEwen says no other program uses such a varied, cost-effective set of tools – student books, learning logs, lesson skill cards, teacher’s edition, student answer key and teacher key – to diagnose, instruct, prescribe, develop and reteach these skills.

“This program is an ideal solution for teachers concerned about managing their classroom time and fitting testing-skills instruction in an already busy day. It saves teachers time, since students only practice the skills they need to learn,” McEwen says.

Specific skills instruction covers vocabulary, comprehension, text structure, types of texts, literary analysis, research and information, writing styles, writing types, language convention and spelling. It combines an integrated system of assessment, instruction and practice.

Achieve It! also is an ideal, flexible program for low-performing schools that need materials to meet the needs of students in high-poverty areas, and in full-year, after-school, summer school, or special programs, McEwen says.

About Harcourt Achieve

Harcourt Achieve produces learning solutions and content that fundamentally and positively changes the lives of young and adult learners. Published under the Rigby and Steck-Vaughn imprints, its products are based on a developmental philosophy that assesses learners' skills and needs, matches them to appropriate content and accelerates them to meet and exceed expectations. The Steck-Vaughn imprint offers easy-to-use, innovative learning solutions that accelerate content-area knowledge and reading skills, allowing learners to meet and exceed expectations. These targeted resources assess, remediate, strengthen and enhance skills and reading development. The Rigby imprint offers progressive learning solutions for reading instruction that provide differentiated instruction to match students' instructional levels. These products are based on strong instructional pedagogy that supports teachers as they actively guide and assess student progress. For more information, please visit <http://www.HarcourtAchieve.com>.

Harcourt Achieve is part of Harcourt Education, a global education provider serving students and teachers in PreK through grade 12, adult learners and readers of all ages. The Harcourt Education companies are Harcourt School Publishers; Holt, Rinehart and Winston; Harcourt Achieve; Harcourt Assessment; Classroom Connect; Harcourt Canada; Harcourt Religion Publishers, Harcourt Trade Publishers, Greenwood/Heinemann and Heinemann Global Library. For more information, please visit www.harcourt.com.

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