



**HOLT, RINEHART AND WINSTON**

A Harcourt Education Company

**Longitudinal Study Validates Instructional Effectiveness of *Holt Science & Technology***  
Independent Research Organization Finds Consistent Increase in Assessment scores

**AUSTIN, Texas – June 22, 2004** – A study released today by Holt, Rinehart and Winston—a leading publisher of textbooks and educational materials for grades six through 12—found that students using the *Holt Science & Technology* middle school science program showed consistent gains on their state assessment tests. While many factors can contribute to test gains, the one factor in common across these schools was the use of *Holt Science and Technology* (HST).

The study, which was conducted by Educational Research Institute of America (ERIA), found that in schools using *Holt Science & Technology*, the test results showed significant skill development in critical areas of science. The researchers concluded that schools could employ the program knowing that it has been a factor in increasing test scores in schools across the country and that it could be a major factor in improving student scores on the science portion of state assessments.

The study analyzed the assessment data and scores of schools in Colorado, Missouri, Ohio and New Jersey where *Holt Science & Technology* had been in use for two years. Despite the fact that each state's standards and assessments differed, there were common findings in the schools' scores across the four states. On average, these schools showed an eight percent *increase* in the number of students reaching "proficient" and "advanced" levels and an eight percent *decline* in the number of students at "unsatisfactory" and "partially proficient" levels. Some schools using HST showed even greater gains, such as those in Colorado where schools using HST showed an 11 percent decrease in low-level scores while showing a 12 percent increase in students scoring at the top levels.

Researchers felt these results were significant, especially since the increases in high-achieving scores were in a variety of schools in four states that were using four different science tests at three different grade levels. According to the researchers' report,

*"The variety of tests used and the different grades assessed provides even stronger evidence for the impact of the Holt Science & Technology program in these schools."* Technical Report Number 132, Educational Research Institute of America, January 2004.

A newly redesigned edition of *Holt Science & Technology* was recently released with new activities, updated text, and new visual resources. The revised middle school science program includes new supplementary resources including the award-winning Holt One-Stop Planner<sup>®</sup> CD-ROM with ExamView<sup>®</sup> Test Generator and Calendar Planner, Holt Online Assessment, and the popular online edition of the textbook. The revised edition was designed to reach students of all abilities with a student-

friendly tone written at the appropriate reading level. The sequence of information on each page of the textbook is easy to navigate, making it accessible to all types of learners. HST's many labs, hands-on activities, and interdisciplinary connections show students how science connects to *their* world.

***About Holt, Rinehart and Winston***

*Holt, Rinehart and Winston is a leading publisher of textbooks and educational materials for grades six through 12 and 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 companies are Harcourt School Publishers; Holt, Rinehart and Winston; Harcourt Achieve (including the Rigby and Steck-Vaughn imprints); Harcourt Assessment; Classroom Connect; Harcourt Canada; and Harcourt Trade Publishers. For further information, please call (800) 992-1627 or visit [www.hrw.com](http://www.hrw.com) or [www.harcourt.com](http://www.harcourt.com).*

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