



NEWS

From Harcourt Assessment, Inc.

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HARCOURT ASSESSMENT WINS WYOMING BID

SAN ANTONIO – Leading test publisher Harcourt Assessment, Inc. today announced that it has been selected by the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) to provide tests and scoring services for the Wyoming Statewide Student Assessment System. The contract term begins this school year and continues through the 2007-2008 school year.

“We are delighted that Wyoming’s education department selected Harcourt as its testing partner, and we are especially excited about the state’s ambitious plans to build what will be one of the most innovative assessment systems in the country,” said Jeff Galt, president and chief executive officer of Harcourt Assessment.

“We look forward to working with Harcourt on our innovative assessment system,” said Dr. Trent Blankenship, Wyoming superintendent of public instruction. “Harcourt’s vast knowledge and expertise will ultimately benefit Wyoming students.”

Harcourt will develop both formative and summative assessments in reading, writing and mathematics for grades three through eight and grade 11. It will also develop summative science assessments for three levels: Kindergarten through grade four, grades five through eight, and grades nine through 12.

Formative assessments are used throughout the school year to provide teachers with ongoing feedback on student progress. They enable teachers to tailor classroom instruction and help students who may be struggling with the material.

Summative assessments are end-of-year tests that show how well students have mastered the curriculum and provide an indication of a student’s achievement level.

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Wyoming students already take reading and math tests in grades four, eight and 11. The expansion of the program to additional grade levels is a key step in Wyoming's plan to comply with the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Approximately 45,000 students in 362 schools across the state will take the new tests each spring. Harcourt will begin developing test items this year. Students will take pilot tests in spring 2005 and live tests starting in 2006.

Harcourt Assessment is a leading provider of high-quality assessment instruments and testing programs. Its educational products include the Stanford Achievement Test series and the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test[®]. Under the PsychCorp[™] brand, it also publishes a wide variety of clinical products, such as the Wechsler[®] family of psychological tests and the CELF[®] family of speech and language tests.

Through the development of custom statewide educational testing programs, Harcourt is helping more than 20 states meet the accountability requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

The company is affiliated with the Harcourt book publishing companies, and together they form the global education brand of 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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