

## NEWS RELEASE

### **RIGBY INTRODUCES *PM ULTRA BENCHMARK KIT* FOR READING ASSESSMENT**

*Comprehensive kit provides integrated assessment, monitoring and reporting tools*

**Austin, TX, January 25, 2006** -- Rigby has announced the release of *PM Ultra Benchmark Kit*, a comprehensive kit for assessing, monitoring and reporting reading progress for students in grades 1-5.

Reliable and consistent reading assessment is crucial to appropriately placing students at the beginning of the year, informing instruction throughout the year and documenting progress at the end of the year. *PM Ultra Benchmark Kit* provides a coordinated set of research-based tools for step-by-step assessment that makes documenting student progress easy, efficient and accurate.

*PM Ultra Benchmark Kit* includes the popular texts from the *PM Benchmark Kits I and II* and features improved testing protocols, multiple assessments, tracking software and a reading progress portfolio.

Reading progress is monitored through multiple assessments that include retelling, reading records, comprehension questions and checklists, and analysis of reading behaviors to evaluate students' understanding. Tracking software monitors student progress at the individual, class and district levels to meet reporting AYP requirements. The reading progress portfolio maintains a record of the student's school history, literacy history and reading progress to track and supports student progress over the years.

*PM Ultra Benchmark Kit* includes fiction and nonfiction titles for 30 reading levels, a total of 60 titles. Books are correlated with Rigby's *PM* series of readers but can be used in conjunction with any reading program.

#### **About Rigby**

Rigby, a Harcourt Achieve imprint, builds a solid foundation in literacy that supports independent reading and academic success. The Rigby line consists of research-based products, which offer learning opportunities for students at varying reading and comprehension levels. Harcourt Achieve produces learning solutions and content that fundamentally and positively change the lives of young and adult learners. Published under the Rigby, Saxon and Steck-Vaughn imprints, its products are based on a developmental philosophy that assesses learner's skills, matches them to appropriate content and accelerates them to meet and exceed expectations.

Harcourt Achieve is part of Harcourt Education, a global education provider serving students and teachers in Pre-K 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 Religion Publishers; Harcourt Trade Publishers; Greenwood/Heinemann and Heinemann Global Library. For more information, please visit [www.harcourt.com](http://www.harcourt.com).

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