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ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS SELECTS HARCOURT'S *LEARNIA* TO MONITOR STUDENT PROGRESS

Product will assist the Archdiocese in monitoring student learning throughout the school year

SAN ANTONIO, March 8, 2007 – Leading test publisher Harcourt Assessment, Inc., announced today that the Archdiocese of New Orleans has selected its *Learnia* product as an assessment solution for use in Orleans Parish elementary schools. *Learnia*, a classroom assessment tool for grades 3-8 examines student achievement through both formative and summative assessments and provides real-time, student-centric assessment data to make teaching – and learning – successful and rewarding. The Archdiocese will begin testing with *Learnia* this month.

“We’re excited to have the opportunity to assist the Archdiocese in maximizing student learning,” said Harcourt Assessment Regional Vice President Scott Sciotto. “*Learnia* is an extremely effective tool to ensure students are comprehending classroom instruction and to identify individual student-learning breakdowns so that teachers can adjust their instruction to address the needs of each student.”

The Archdiocese of New Orleans will be implementing *Learnia* in its elementary schools in Orleans Parish to test children in grades 3-7 in reading and math. Testing will be done digitally, with student reports available to teachers and administrators immediately after completion of the tests. Approximately 3600 Archdiocesan students will be tested using *Learnia*.

Learnia's combination of formative and summative assessments enables educators to help students meet specific achievement expectations, while ensuring student learning success in the classroom. *ClassLinks*[™], *Learnia's* formative component, provides teachers with insights and tools to rapidly evaluate and guide classroom instruction over the course of the year to best meet the needs of each student. In conjunction, *ClassViews*[®], the summative component of *Learnia*, provides snapshots of student achievement so that administrators and teachers can target students who need intervention and additional resources prior to major exams and testing.

Learnia's unique “Answer Analysis” feature, included with *ClassLinks*, arms teachers with specific information to identify exactly what students are understanding or what problem areas to address. This critical insight allows teachers to effectively assist each student by providing information about *why* a student may have chosen an incorrect answer. The rationale behind each answer allows teachers to immediately identify and remedy the learning gaps that lead to the selection of those “wrong” answers.

Learnia's state-of-the-art reporting features provide practical data with immediate utility for teachers and administrators. Data can be aggregated and disaggregated to easily identify performance by student, roster, grade, classroom and school – without needing a statistician to interpret the results. Tests can be administered and scored online, with reports delivered in two formats, fixed and interactive. The fixed reports provide immediate, summary results on how students performed on a particular test, while the interactive reports allow teachers to drill down and analyze results at the item level to identify exactly where learning is breaking down.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans is one of the largest Catholic school systems in the country. The system consists of 83 schools on 81 sites in an eight Civil-parish (county) area. The system includes 60 elementary schools and 23 high schools, serving a multi-cultured student population of more than 42,000.

For more information on Harcourt Assessment's products, visit <http://www.HarcourtAssessment.com>.

About Harcourt Assessment, Inc.

Based in San Antonio, Harcourt Assessment, Inc. is a leading provider of high-quality assessment instruments and testing programs published under two brand names — Harcourt Assessment and PsychCorp™. For more than 85 years, Harcourt Assessment has been providing insight about children and adults; informing instruction, curricula, and clinical practice; collaborating with educators and clinical professionals; assisting human resources, admissions and credential professionals; and creating assessment innovations, in order to provide the most effective assessment solutions for the success of all individuals.

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