

Holt Literature & Language Arts Adopted by California State Board of Education; Unique Middle School Language Arts Program Created Expressly for California

ORLANDO, Fla., Jan. 15

Holt, Rinehart and Winston, a Harcourt Education company, announced today that the California State Board of Education has unanimously approved the adoption of Holt Literature and Language Arts for use in California public schools. The Board action follows a thorough evaluation process with reviewers who found the program to be fully aligned with California's content standards and framework and praised the program for meeting or exceeding all of the state's criteria for standards-based instructional materials. Approval by the Board means that public schools may purchase Holt Literature and Language Arts using funds from the \$250 million Standards-Based Instructional Materials Program.

Holt Literature and Language Arts is an all-new middle school reading and language arts program created expressly for California. The Board approved four middle school language arts programs including Holt Literature and Language Arts, a unique program developed from the ground up to support the California content standards. In fact, Holt Literature and Language Arts is the only program approved with no Board recommendations for changes.

"California challenged publishers to create innovative materials that support the state's content standards for language arts," said Holt CEO Judy Fowler. "Developing a program from scratch is a massive undertaking, but it's what we felt was necessary to answer the call. Holt Literature and Language Arts doesn't just align with California's standards-everything in the program was put there by design, to help California children achieve the goals the state has established for them."

To help students achieve mastery of the content standards, the Holt authors and editors built into each chapter a depth of instruction, giving students multiple learning opportunities and context needed for mastery. Students, teachers, and parents will know the specific skills being taught throughout the program since the content standards, both on-grade level and review standards, are listed directly on the textbook pages.

Many California school districts have begun the process of selecting language arts materials for use in their schools, and most are expected to implement new programs for the start of the 2002-2003 school year.

Holt, Rinehart and Winston is a leading publisher of textbooks and educational materials for grades six through twelve. It is part of the Harcourt Education Group, America's premier provider of instructional materials and standardized tests for grades K through 12. Other Harcourt Education companies include Harcourt School Publishers, Steck Vaughn, Rigby, Harcourt Trade and Classroom Connect. Since July 2001, Harcourt Education has been a member of the Reed Elsevier plc group. For further information, please visit <http://www.hrw.com> or <http://www.harcourt.com>.

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