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**HARCOURT ASSESSMENT LAUNCHES SECOND EDITION OF ITS  
EARLY READING DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT™ (ERDA™)**

**COMBINED WITH HARCOURT'S STANFORD READING FIRST, IT'S THE  
PERFECT CHOICE FOR MEETING NCLB REQUIREMENTS**

SAN ANTONIO – Harcourt Assessment announced today that it has launched the second edition of its Early Reading Diagnostic Assessment™ (ERDA™ Second Edition), a nationally normed, individually administered diagnostic instrument that identifies early reading strengths and needs of young children so that teachers can plan instruction to prevent reading failure.

Already approved by a growing number of states throughout the nation, ERDA Second Edition is a comprehensive assessment that tests all five essential reading components – phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension – making it the perfect choice to help states comply with the Reading First requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

ERDA Second Edition was based on the latest research in early childhood reading and designed for use in kindergarten through grade three. Using the valid and reliable information it provides about each child's reading strengths and weaknesses, teachers can intervene with appropriate instruction so that no child is left behind.

Teachers can administer ERDA Second Edition at the beginning of the fall term as a diagnostic tool. Later in the school year, teachers can use another Harcourt Assessment product – Stanford Reading First – to measure the results of their intervention and instructional efforts. Like ERDA Second Edition, Stanford Reading First also tests all five essential reading components.

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“Harcourt Assessment is proud to offer a comprehensive Reading First solution,” said Aurelio Prifitera, publisher of Harcourt Assessment. “With a diagnostic test like ERDA Second Edition, and an outcomes measure like Stanford Reading First, states and school districts can look to Harcourt Assessment as the leader in early childhood reading assessment products.”

Designed with teacher input to make it simpler to administer, ERDA Second Edition has engaging items and a teacher-friendly format.

ERDA Second Edition also offers reports for parents and school administrators that are easy to understand.

Based in San Antonio, Harcourt Assessment is a leading provider of high-quality assessment instruments and testing programs. The company publishes the Wechsler® family of tests, including the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children® and the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence™, both of which are industry standards. Its educational products include the Stanford Achievement Test series and the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test®.

The company is a unit of Harcourt, Inc., which is a global publishing and education company serving students and teachers from pre-kindergarten through grade 12, adult learners and readers of all ages. Harcourt is a member of the 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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