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## News Release

### **CLASSROOM CONNECT'S CONNECTED TECH™ IS APPROVED FOR TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS ADOPTION IN TEXAS**

**BRISBANE, CA - Nov. 20, 2003** - Classroom Connect has announced that the Texas State Board of Education has approved its Connected Tech™ online instructional program for inclusion on the state's Technology Applications Adoption list. This revolutionary, statewide adoption ensures that beginning in Fall 2004, every school district in Texas has the opportunity to use Connected Tech to teach students technology applications skills while meeting all TA TEKS (Technology Applications Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills) standards.

"Texas should be commended for taking this important step toward making the vision for meaningful technology integration in schools possible," commented Jim Bowler, president and CEO of Classroom Connect. "We knew from the beginning that we were creating a very special product that was a perfect match for this adoption. We're very proud that Connected Tech was approved, and approved so early on in the process." Connected Tech was the only K-8 program to receive "conforming" classification during the initial review period.

Connected Tech is a Web-based instructional program that provides K-8 teachers with easy-to-use activities and resources that teach students technology applications skills in the context of core curriculum areas. Real-world applications such as Microsoft® Office, FileMaker Pro®, Apple Works®, and others are integrated throughout the program where it's most grade-appropriate, ensuring that the technology blends seamlessly with the curriculum being taught and learning is relevant for each grade level.

According to "A Study of the Instructional Effectiveness of Classroom Connect's Connected Tech Program" by the Educational Research Institute of America (ERIA), Connected Tech was proven to be instructionally effective in technology skills and content knowledge areas.

The study included approximately 549 randomly selected students in grades 1, 4, and 7 from six schools in Texas and New York City. The study shows that students using Connected Tech achieved strong improvement of technology skills in all grades tested. Students' content knowledge was shown to improve most in younger and lower performing students.

Texas school districts can learn more about Connected Tech and receive an online demonstration of the program by calling Classroom Connect at (800) 638-1639.

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**About Classroom Connect**

Classroom Connect is an award-winning provider of professional development programs and online instructional materials for K-12 education. The company is devoted to helping teachers become better teachers by engaging them in their own learning and inspiring positive change in the classroom. Headquartered in Brisbane, CA, Classroom Connect is part of Harcourt Education, a global education provider serving students and teachers in PreK through grade 12, adult learners, and readers of all ages. The Harcourt Education companies are Harcourt School Publishers, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Harcourt Supplemental Publishers (including the Rigby and Steck-Vaughn imprints), Harcourt Assessment, Classroom Connect, Harcourt Canada, Harcourt Religion Publishers, and Harcourt Trade Publishers. For further information, please visit <http://www.harcourt.com>

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