



**HOLT, RINEHART AND WINSTON**

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**Newly Released Holt Online Assessment for Middle School Math Curriculum is Aligned to Florida's FCAT and NAEP Assessments**

**ORLANDO, Florida— January 23, 2004** – Holt, Rinehart and Winston today announced the release of Holt Online Assessment for the *Holt Middle School Math* curriculum, a new resource that enables teachers to diagnose students' mastery of FCAT (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test) skills, assign intervention, and track improvement with benchmark FCAT practice tests.

This release is significant for Florida because it helps educators prepare students for their state's high-stakes test, the FCAT, which all students will take in the coming months. The reports available to teachers after students take the assigned tests include performance data relative to Florida Sunshine State learning standards. Using these reports, a teacher can then assign specific lessons, quizzes, and activities from the *Holt Middle School Math* program for an individualized remediation track that reteaches specific concepts. Teachers can then monitor individual student progress through his/her remediation track and reassess with another benchmark FCAT practice test.

"We built this online assessment tool to meet the needs of teachers who are under increasing pressure to have their students score well on their state's test," said Judy Fowler, president of Holt. "The online format increases utility, and the seamless integration with *Holt Middle School Math* makes for an intuitive teaching cycle that allows assessment to drive instruction."

The system is entirely web-based which makes it easy to use and allows anywhere, anytime access from the Internet. Comprehensive reporting tools give teachers reports on student and class performance relative to state standards, which can then be broken down by demographic subgroup. Of particular interest for today's school administrators and teachers are reports that show student and demographic subgroup performance on the standards over time. With this type of reporting, teachers and administrators can quickly see which standards need further reinforcement to meet the federal requirements of *No Child Left Behind*.

In addition to the Florida FCAT version, Holt Online Assessment for *Holt Middle School Math* is also available in versions correlated to state learning standards and state-specific assessments in North Carolina, Alabama, Oklahoma, and Indiana. There is a national version as well, correlated to National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assessments.

Online assessment products for language arts are also available from Holt. Holt Online Assessment for *Holt Literature and Language Arts* was released in California in 2003. Holt Online Essay

Scoring, which has been in use since 2002, currently reviews over 23,000 essays a month, which illustrates the growing interest in online test-prep and assessment resources.

### **About Holt, Rinehart and Winston**

Holt, Rinehart and Winston is a leading publisher of textbooks and educational materials for grades six through 12 and 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 companies are Harcourt School Publishers; Holt, Rinehart and Winston; Harcourt Achieve (including the Rigby and Steck-Vaughn imprints); Harcourt Assessment; Classroom Connect; Harcourt Canada; and Harcourt Trade Publishers. For further information, please call (800) 992-1627 or visit [www.hrw.com](http://www.hrw.com) or [www.harcourt.com](http://www.harcourt.com).

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