



NEWS

From Harcourt Assessment, Inc.

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FOR RELEASE: Monday, April 18, 2005

**HARCOURT ASSESSMENT PARTNERS WITH STATE OF OKLAHOMA
WITH ONLINE TESTING PROGRAM FOR SEVENTH GRADE GEOGRAPHY**

**MORE THAN 48,000 STUDENTS TO TAKE ONLINE TEST
DURING THREE-WEEK TESTING PERIOD**

SAN ANTONIO – Leading test publisher Harcourt Assessment, Inc. has partnered with the state of Oklahoma to develop and implement an online testing program for seventh grade geography.

Student testing began last week for the state's 48,000 seventh graders, with nearly 17,000 tested so far. The three-week testing period continues through April 29.

"We believe this is an unprecedented program that puts Oklahoma at the forefront of student assessment," said Jeff Galt, president and chief executive officer of Harcourt Assessment. "Never before have so many students taken an online test in such a short period of time. We congratulate the state for implementing this bold, forward-thinking program.

"Today's students are perfectly comfortable with computers and they easily integrate technology into their daily lives, so it is only natural to deliver assessments online," Galt added. "Testing is moving rapidly toward online administration, and Harcourt is happy to help states move in that direction."

The online geography test, like its paper and pencil predecessor, consists of 50 multiple-choice questions. Once a student completes the test, the system immediately generates a raw score, or number of questions answered correctly.

Those raw scores will be converted into proficiency levels established by the state, such as "satisfactory" or "advanced," and reported to teachers, parents and students this summer. The proficiency levels indicate how well a student performed relative to the state's standards.

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Response to the new online test has been positive. A technology specialist for a school district commented that he had “never seen a more professional online testing layout.”

The online test also gets a “thumbs up” from students. According to one seventh grader, “It was easy to use and cool!”

Based in San Antonio, Harcourt Assessment is a leading provider of high-quality assessment instruments and testing programs used by educators, psychologists, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, human resource professionals, admissions and credentialing professionals, and businesses. Through the development of custom statewide educational testing programs, Harcourt is helping more than 20 states meet the accountability requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

The company is affiliated with the Harcourt Education companies, and together they form the global education brand of 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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