



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES HARCOURT ACHIEVE'S "STECK-VAUGHN ELEMENTS OF READING: VOCABULARY" FOR READING FIRST PROGRAMS' INTERVENTION LIST OF SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION MATERIALS

*State's Reading First Schools Can Purchase Steck-Vaughn
Elements of Reading: Vocabulary With Reading First Funds*

Austin, Texas---July 7, 2005— Harcourt Achieve today announced that the California State Board of Education has approved the addition of *Elements of Reading®: Vocabulary* to its California Reading First Intervention List of supplemental materials for improving reading in kindergarten through grade three classrooms. Harcourt Achieve, Inc. publishes this research-driven vocabulary product under its Steck-Vaughn imprint, as part of its *Elements of Reading* program. Harcourt Achieve developed *Elements of Reading* to meet the challenge of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and National Reading Panel (NRP) guidelines.

“We developed the *Elements of Reading: Vocabulary* module to build oral vocabulary that is essential for future reading proficiency. It is the foundation for reading success,” said Tim McEwen, President of Harcourt Achieve.

Reading First is the primary national initiative for improving reading in kindergarten through grade three classrooms. The initiative, which is part of the NCLB Act, funds scientifically research-based reading programs.

California Reading First addresses one of the state's greatest needs: to ensure that all children in California learn to read by the end of the third grade. Under the Reading First plan, California is providing sub-grants to local educational agencies for implementing state-adopted reading programs.

California has adopted two comprehensive K-3 basal reading/language arts programs that are eligible for sub grants. To supplement and support these state-adopted programs, California established an Intervention List of approved materials in 2004, which it periodically updates. The

inclusion of *Elements of Reading: Vocabulary* on this supplementary list permits Reading First schools to purchase the product with Reading First funds.

Common-Sense Learning Approach

Instructional programs must undergo a rigorous review process to qualify for Reading First funding. The Florida Center for Reading Research reviewed and recommended *Elements of Reading: Vocabulary* for inclusion in California's Vocabulary and Comprehension technical skill domain. The California Department of Education (CDE) Reading/Language Arts Leadership Office, Education Office, and California Technical Assistance Center also approved the module.

Elements of Reading: Vocabulary is based on the research of Dr. Isabel Beck and Dr. Margaret McKeown and their years of classroom practice. *Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction*, the widely read book by Beck, McKeown, and Linda Kucan, inspired the creation of the vocabulary module.

"*Elements of Reading: Vocabulary* offers proven tools and techniques for helping school-age children increase their vocabulary," said Beck. "Children learn, discuss, and use new vocabulary words through a variety of interesting activities. The importance of children acquiring a large and sophisticated vocabulary cannot be overstated. Vocabulary knowledge is very strongly related to reading achievement."

Components include a read-aloud anthology, photo cards, a word watcher chart, student work texts, and a teacher's guide. *Elements of Reading: Vocabulary* is suitable for either whole-class or small-group instruction.

According to reviewers at the Florida Center for Reading Research, "The program embodies excellent literature that spans a variety of genres and is used to introduce the new vocabulary. Explaining the concepts of the words using everyday language, not stiff dictionary definitions, and connecting the words to known concepts is an important part of the program."

For further information on *Steck-Vaughn Elements of Reading: Vocabulary*, visit: www.steckvaughn.com/EOR.

About Harcourt Achieve

Harcourt Achieve produces learning solutions and content that fundamentally and positively change the lives of young and adult learners. Published under the Rigby, Saxon, and Steck-Vaughn imprints, its products are based on a developmental philosophy that assesses learners' skills, matches them to appropriate content and accelerates them to meet and exceed expectations. The Rigby imprint offers progressive learning solutions for core reading and English language learner instruction that provide differentiated instruction to match each student's instructional level. The Saxon imprint offers the nation's best selling and most thoroughly researched skills-based mathematics program for grades K-12, as well as popular phonics, K-3 spelling, and early learning programs. The Steck-Vaughn imprint offers easy-to-use, innovative learning solutions that accelerate content-area knowledge, reading skills, and preparation for standards-based tests, allowing learners to meet and exceed expectations. For more information, please visit www.HarcourtAchieve.com.

Harcourt Achieve is part of Harcourt Education, a global education provider serving students and teachers in Pre-K through grade 12, adult learners and readers of all ages. The Harcourt Education companies are Harcourt School Publishers; Holt, Rinehart and Winston; Harcourt Achieve; Harcourt Assessment; Classroom Connect; Harcourt Religion Publishers; Harcourt Trade Publishers; Greenwood/Heinemann and Heinemann Global Library. For more information, please visit www.harcourt.com.

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