

NEWS RELEASE

Harcourt Achieve and TESOL Announce a Joint Publishing Effort: the Rigby ELL Assessment Kit for K-6 English Language Learners

The New Rigby ELL Assessment Kit is the first tool to align with the TESOL 2006 PreK–12 English Language Proficiency Standards

Austin, TX and Alexandria, VA--December 8, 2005 -- Harcourt Achieve, publisher of Rigby educational learning materials, and Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), a global education association, announce the publication of the **Rigby ELL Assessment Kit** for K–6 classrooms. The **Rigby ELL Assessment Kit**, created as a collaboration between Harcourt Achieve and TESOL, is designed to assist educators in quickly and efficiently assessing the progress of English language learners in the four domains of language proficiency: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

“TESOL is very pleased to have contributed to the development of **Rigby’s ELL Assessment Kit**,” says TESOL President Elliot Judd. “With the increased assessments and accountability provisions that have come with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, a classroom assessment toolkit for English language learners that is standards-based, representative of grade level curriculum, and provides useful information for teachers will be a helpful resource for all educators who work with English language learners.”

Tim McEwen, president of Harcourt Achieve adds, “We developed the **Rigby ELL Assessment Kit** in cooperation with TESOL and worked closely with them to align the kit to the specific needs of educators who work with English language learners. The kit provides teachers with the ability to perform quick, ongoing assessment of individual

students and offers immediate results to inform language and literacy instruction throughout the year.”

The **Rigby ELL Assessment Kit**, organized in a sturdy storage container and includes a teacher’s manual, student assessment books with fiction and non-fiction passages, is typically used with ELL students three or four times during the school year. The kit allows K–6 teachers to assess students at all levels of language and literacy proficiency, leading to academic progress and success on high-stakes standardized tests.

The **Rigby ELL Assessment Kit** was evaluated by a blind review of TESOL members with expertise in standards and specific elements of second language acquisition and literacy instruction.

The **Rigby ELL Assessment Kit** will be available in January 2006. For more information, call 1-800-531-5015 or visit: <http://rigby.harcourtachieve.com>.

About TESOL

Founded in 1966, Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL) is a global education association with more than 13,000 members and 90 affiliates in over 120 countries. TESOL is recognized as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) of the United Nations Department of Public Information. TESOL's mission is to ensure excellence in English language teaching to speakers of other languages. For more information about TESOL, visit <http://www.tesol.org>.

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. For more information, please visit <http://www.harcourtachieve.com/>.

Harcourt Achieve 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 Achieve; Harcourt Assessment; Classroom Connect; Harcourt

Religion Publishers; Harcourt Trade Publishers; Greenwood/Heinemann and Heinemann Global Library. For more information, please visit <http://www.harcourt.com>.

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