

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Harcourt Achieve Announces Favorable Reports on *Elements of Reading* Programs from Florida Center for Reading Research**

*Florida Center for Reading Research reports show that Steck-Vaughn's Elements of Reading: Fluency and Elements of Reading: Phonemic Awareness meet Reading First criteria*

**AUSTIN, TX – January 10, 2006** – Harcourt Achieve, publisher of **Steck-Vaughn** supplemental educational materials, announces that two new reports from the Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR) confirm that the Steck-Vaughn *Elements of Reading* (EOR) programs are consistent with federal Reading First instruction criteria. *Elements of Reading: Fluency* and *Elements of Reading: Phonemic Awareness* were researched in fall 2005 and the reports are now available at <http://www.fcrr.org/FCRRReports/index.htm>.

The FCRR reports cite no weakness in either program and acknowledge the alignment of *Elements of Reading* with the National Regional Panel criteria for instruction in the five areas of reading: phonics, phonemic awareness, comprehension, fluency and vocabulary. “The importance of instruction in phonemic awareness and phonics for beginning readers was emphasized in the Report of the National Reading Panel (2000). Based on those findings, the activities in the *Elements of Reading: Phonics and Phonemic Awareness* were constructed to develop in beginning readers a firm understanding of the alphabetic principle and a facility with word analysis.” --FCRR, November 2005

“*Elements of Reading: Fluency* is one component of a modular reading program by Steck-Vaughn. Each of the components: Phonics and Phonemic Awareness, Vocabulary, Fluency, and Comprehension have been flexibly designed to be used together or separately for supplementing specific areas of need. Dr. Timothy Shanahan authored this

program and based his work on reading research surrounding fluency, including the findings of the National Reading Panel.” –FCRR, December 2005

The FCRR is a technical assistance and support center for schools receiving a Reading First award. It is designed to inform districts in Florida and across the nation about the effectiveness of various reading programs to meet federal Reading First criteria.

Steck-Vaughn’s *Elements of Reading* is a proven systematic approach to reading instruction for kindergarten through third grades. Since its introduction in 2004, *Elements of Reading* has become widely accepted among educators as a resource for differentiating instruction in the five critical areas of reading development cited by the National Reading Panel.

“As a publisher, our most important task is to help leading researchers translate their groundbreaking efforts into affordable, teacher-friendly classroom solutions designed to improve student achievement,” said Bill Wilkinson, vice president of research, Harcourt Achieve. “*Elements of Reading* improves student reading skills and these FCRR reviews confirm it. For a teacher, it’s like having a reading expert right next to you in the classroom.”

In addition, an FCRR report on the *Elements of Reading: Vocabulary* was issued in June, 2005. For more information on *Elements of Reading*, please visit, <http://steckvaughn.harcourtachieve.com>.

### **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 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. 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. For more information, please visit [www.HarcourtAchieve.com](http://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](http://www.harcourt.com).