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Media Contact:

Russell Schweiss, 800/228-0752, russell_schweiss@harcourt.com

HARCOURT ASSESSMENT SECURES CONTRACT TO PROVIDE NATIONAL BENCHMARKING FOR STATE OF ARKANSAS' STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT TESTS

Harcourt's Stanford Achievement Test to be integrated into the state exam

SAN ANTONIO, February 8, 2007 – Harcourt Assessment, Inc. today announced the company secured a contract with the Arkansas Department of Education to integrate sections of the *Stanford Achievement Test* into Arkansas' statewide assessment. Under the contract, Harcourt will provide services for the next 5 school years with renewal options through 2012. The first new assessments will be administered in the spring of 2008.

“We are pleased to have completed the procurement process so that we may now begin work with Harcourt to create a quality test that will combine our State Benchmark Exams with norm-referenced questions,” said T. Kenneth James, Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education. “The goals of this combined test, which we are calling an augmented assessment, are to minimize testing time for our students and teachers while maintaining the rigor needed to adequately assess the academic performance of students. This arrangement will indeed be a win-win for all involved.”

Harcourt Assessment will work with the State to integrate items from its industry-leading *Stanford Achievement Test Series 10th Edition (Stanford 10)* into Arkansas' statewide assessment for students in grades 3-9, allowing the state to benchmark their students against state standards and national data using a single tool. Harcourt Assessment will also provide components of the *Stanford Achievement Test* for administration to children in grades K-2.

“Today's global economy requires states to measure not only how well students are achieving the state education standards, but also how they measure up to their peers beyond their

state,” said Harcourt Assessment CEO and President Michael Hansen. “We’re pleased Arkansas has chosen Harcourt Assessment to provide these services, and with more than 80 years experience in creating national benchmarking exams, we’re excited to help the State ensure they are producing students that can compete in today’s global marketplace.”

The *Stanford Achievement Test* has been the standard of excellence in achievement testing for more than 80 years and provides unmatched reliability and validity. Each year, the Stanford Achievement Test is administered to more than 2.3 million students in public and private schools, providing administrators, teachers and parents with valuable data on student and school performance.

About Harcourt Assessment, Inc.

Based in San Antonio, Harcourt Assessment, Inc. is a leading provider of high-quality assessment instruments and testing programs published under two brand names — Harcourt Assessment and PsychCorp™. For more than 85 years, Harcourt Assessment has been providing insight about children and adults; informing instruction, curricula, and clinical practice; collaborating with educators and clinical professionals; and creating assessment innovations, in order to provide the most effective assessment solutions for the success of all individuals.

The company is a unit of Harcourt Education, a global education provider serving students and teachers in PreK through grade 12, adult learners, and readers of all ages. Harcourt Education is part of Reed Elsevier Group plc. (www.reedelsevier.com), a world-leading publisher and information provider. It is owned equally by Reed Elsevier PLC (NYSE: RUK) and Reed Elsevier NV (NYSE: ENL).

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