

NEWS RELEASE

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STAR Reading, STAR Early Literacy receive highest ratings for Response to Intervention screening reading tools

April 2, 2009, Wisconsin Rapids, WI – Renaissance Learning™, Inc., (Nasdaq: RLRN) announced today that STAR Reading and STAR Early Literacy, the company’s reading assessment products, have received the highest ratings among screening reading tools reviewed by the National Center on Response to Intervention. The ratings mean the products have met the organization’s criteria for screening reading tools that “are valid, reliable, and evidence-based.”

The National Center on Response to Intervention (NCRTI), which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, just released the first review that evaluated the scientific rigor of commercially available reading screening tools that can be used for Response to Intervention (RTI). The Center helps educators identify credible and reliable evidence to make informed decisions about scientifically based tools for use within an RTI framework.

The Screening Reading Tools Chart, which can be found on the NCRTI website at www.rti4success.org, lists STAR Reading and STAR Early Literacy as the only assessments receiving top ratings in three individual categories, the most of any reviewed products.

“These positive reviews of STAR Reading and STAR Early Literacy are an important acknowledgement from an authoritative source that our assessments are ideal for RTI,” said Steve Schmidt, President and Chief Operating Officer of Renaissance Learning. “In a time that educators are facing unprecedented time and budget constraints, the fact that STAR Reading and STAR Early Literacy assessments are faster, more cost efficient, and higher rated than traditional curriculum-based measurements, make them the best choice.”

The company’s suite of STAR products, which also includes STAR Math, are used by more than 47,000 schools, and provide screening, progress-monitoring, and diagnostic assessment results. Each is completely computer administered and requires little administration time to achieve reliable data. STAR Early Literacy, primarily used in grades K-3, provides scores on 41 emergent reading skills in the seven early literacy domains. STAR Reading, used once students are able to read independently, tests reading comprehension directly and provides an accurate estimate of oral reading fluency plus skill development suggestions.

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About Renaissance Learning, Inc.

Renaissance Learning, Inc. is the world’s leading provider of computer-based assessment technology for pre-K–12 schools. Adopted by more than 74,000 schools, Renaissance Learning’s tools provide daily formative assessment and periodic progress-monitoring technology to enhance core curriculum, support differentiated instruction, and personalize practice in reading, writing and math. Renaissance Learning products help educators make the practice component of their existing curriculum more effective by providing tools to personalize practice and easily manage the daily activities for students of all levels. As a result, teachers using Renaissance Learning products accelerate learning, get more satisfaction from teaching, and help students achieve higher test scores on state and national tests. Renaissance Learning has seven U.S. locations and subsidiaries in Canada and the United Kingdom.