Renaissance Learning, Inc.

Advanced Technology for Data-Driven Schools™

Texas Commissioner's List Approves STAR Early Literacy
as Stand-Alone Reading Assessment

November 16, 2010, Wisconsin Rapids, WI – Renaissance Learning, Inc. announced today that its STAR Early Literacy computer adaptive assessment has been named to the Texas Commissioner's approved list of stand-alone reading and English Language Instrument options.

The 2010-2011 Commissioner's List of Reading Instruments for Texas Public Schools and Charter Schools is issued by the Texas Commissioner of Education, which approves assessment instruments for diagnosing reading skills and comprehension development for students. According to state requirements, all students in grades K-2 must take an assessment to determine early literacy skills.

Though the STAR Early Literacy assessment has appeared on the Texas Commissioner's List in prior years, it had been approved for use in conjunction with another approved assessment. This year, the Commissioner's review of STAR Early Literacy determined the assessment may stand alone as an English Language Instrument Option, and may be used to address the required literacy domains in grades K-2.

Although an early reading assessment for grade three is not required in Texas, the Texas Education Commissioner issues a list of reviewed assessments that show reliable and valid measurement of skills in five domains for schools that wish to adopt a grade three assessment. For the grade three list, the Texas Commissioner's rigorous review found that of the 17 approved programs, STAR Early Literacy was one of only two assessments to show reliable and valid measurement of the skills in all five literacy domains.

STAR Early Literacy helps educators to accurately and reliably assess 41 skills in seven key early literacy domains in approximately 10 minutes, and it allows educators to screen students for placement, diagnostic assessment, progress monitoring, growth measurement, and outcomes assessment. STAR Early Literacy correlates highly with a wide range of more time-intensive assessments and can be repeated as often as weekly for progress monitoring.

In addition to the recognition by the Texas Education Commissioner, STAR Early Literacy also received the highest rating of all screening assessments, and among the highest ratings of all progress monitoring tools reviewed by the U. S. Department of Education's National Center on Response to Intervention (NCRTI).

The *Commissioner's List of Reading Instruments* for grades K-3 can be found at
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=2147486241&libID=2147486240

###

About Renaissance Learning, Inc.

Renaissance Learning, Inc. is a leading provider of technology-based school improvement and student assessment programs for K12 schools. Adopted by more than 72,000 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.