Renaissance Learning announces reading assessment for Spanish-speaking students

October 5, 2011, Wisconsin Rapids, WI – Renaissance Learning (NASDAQ: RLRN), a leading provider of technology-based school improvement and student assessment programs, announced STAR Reading Spanish, a new computerized reading assessment for students whose native language is Spanish. The test can be used with students in grades 1–12 to assess their Spanish reading levels from beginning first grade to an end-of-fifth grade reading level.

The new 10-minute, computer-adaptive assessment uses vocabulary-in-context items to monitor Spanish reading progress for students in any program that has Spanish instruction. This data will help teachers match Spanish books to Spanish-speaking students, thereby optimizing reading practice time.

For English-only programs, educators will be able to quickly determine the Spanish-reading level of incoming English language learners, providing valuable information on what reading comprehension skills students may already have in place, so educators can differentiate instruction accordingly.

"Research has documented for years that students who know how to read well in their native language usually achieve the same results in a second language," said Glenn R. James, Chief Executive Officer of Renaissance Learning. "Our school and district customers have been searching for a fast, accurate, and reliable way to determine the reading levels of their Hispanic students. We are confident that STAR Reading Spanish will meet their needs."

STAR Reading Spanish joins Renaissance Learning's suite of the most widely used standardized computer-adaptive assessments in education, including the new Enterprise editions of STAR Reading, STAR Math, and STAR Early Literacy. STAR Reading Spanish will also align with the company's reading-practice software, Accelerated Reader (AR). Educators using AR in conjunction with STAR Reading Spanish will soon be able to make more efficient and effective use of AR's Spanish-Language Quizzes for Spanish-language books. "That's a win-win for both teachers and their students," James added.

STAR Reading Spanish is expected to be available to schools and districts for the 2012-2013 school year.

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 approximately 70,000 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 and school improvement programs 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 and programs 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.