

Harcourt Connected Learning
8000 Marina Blvd. Ste. 100
Suite 100
Brisbane, CA 94005
Phone: (650) 351-5100
Fax: (888) 877-1565

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HARCOURT CONNECTED LEARNING ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING™ (DDDM)

NEW ORLEANS, LA – Feb 28, 2007 – Harcourt Connected Learning, the newly formed division of Harcourt focused on impacting student achievement, in collaboration with Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland, today at the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) National Conference on Education announced the nationwide availability of Data-Driven Decision Making™ (DDDM). DDDM is a new online professional development program that shows districts how to develop professional learning communities and data teams to promote a culture of data-driven decision making in every school. The program provides teachers and administrators with the processes needed to better understand data and inform instruction.

“Using actionable data is essential to meeting the educational needs of all students. Teachers and administrators need to be able to access data in a timely, efficient and user-friendly manner in order to plan lessons to meet the needs of each individual student,” said John Q. Porter, the Deputy Superintendent, Office of Information and Organizational Systems, Montgomery County Public Schools, “but teachers and administrators can not do this alone. They need assistance in learning how to best understand and use data to increase student achievement. We are pleased to be partnering with Harcourt to demonstrate our best practices and assist districts that are trying to really take advantage of the use of data in the classroom.”

DDDM is one of several new and upcoming programs due for release in 2007 as part of the Raising Student Achievement™ (RSA) suite of cost-effective, customizable professional development programs in targeted curricular areas. RSA programs deliver comprehensive, research-based training content that features online learning, video-modeling and interactive lessons – providing an engaging, multi-media experience for educators and administrators.

“Lack of training and lack of understanding in what to do with the data are often regarded as among the greatest barriers to effective data-driven decision making,” commented Jim Bowler, President of Professional Service for Harcourt Connected Learning. “DDDM provides a step-by-step process for implementing data teams and creating action plans at every school. We are honored to partner with Montgomery County Public Schools in creating this video-based foundation to help schools to quickly overcome those obstacles.”

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HARCOURT CONNECTED LEARNING ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING™ (DDDM) – CONTINUED

The DDDM program features six modules that outline exemplary practices for data-driven decision making in schools.

DDDM module titles include:

1. Introduction to Data-Driven Decision Making
2. Defining the Student Achievement Need and Collecting Data from Multiple Sources
3. Analyzing Data: Working with Findings
4. Analyzing the Data: Identifying Root Causes
5. Developing an Action Plan
6. Monitoring Continuous Improvement

DDDM is an online program that uses patented technology from Harcourt's eSchool® Online platform to seamlessly present video and web-based content. The program is also completely customizable and allows districts to add content and video that best fits their individual needs.

For more information about Data-Driven Decision Making (DDDM), and the Raising Student Achievement (RSA) suite of cost-effective, customizable professional development programs, call (800) 638-1639 or visit the company's Web site at: www.harcourtcl.com.

About Harcourt Connected Learning

Harcourt Connected Learning, a division of Harcourt Education is a leading provider of best-of-breed technology-driven productivity and teaching tools, on-line and face-to-face professional development for teachers, and technology applications programs for students. It combines the expertise of two award-winning companies with this new Harcourt business unit — Achieve Data Solutions, the developer of DataDirector and leader in data-driven decision-making, and Classroom Connect/eSchool, the leader in professional development services. For additional information, please visit <http://www.harcourtcl.com>.

About Harcourt Education

Harcourt Education is a global education provider serving students and teachers in PreK through grade 12, adult learners, and readers of all ages. The Harcourt companies are Harcourt School Publishers; Holt, Rinehart and Winston; Harcourt Achieve; Harcourt Assessment; Greenwood/Heinemann; Harcourt Trade Publishers, and Harcourt Education International. For further information, visit <http://www.harcourt.com>.

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Media Contact

Mark Ruch
Marketing Communications
Harcourt Connected Learning
(415) 637.9145
mark.ruch@harcourt.com