

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHOOSE CLASSROOM CONNECT FOR LARGE-SCALE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

BRISBANE, CA - October 28, 2004 - Classroom Connect, an educational technology division of Harcourt, Inc., announced today that the Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland has selected the firm's eSchool® Online platform for a customized online professional development program. The \$307,000 project will extend the reach of the Montgomery professional development team to train educational leaders and school principals on the essential skills and competencies described in the district's "Principals' Standards and Performance Criteria."

Aimed at helping educational leaders and school principals participating in Montgomery's Administrative & Supervisory Professional Growth System, the online program will present a systematic, step-by-step approach to modeling and developing the requisite competencies for strong campus leadership.

"As a Deputy Superintendent, it is my responsibility to ensure that the leaders of Montgomery County have the tools to access the most effective and relevant professional development available," said John Q. Porter, the Deputy Superintendent for Strategic Technologies and Accountability. "We believe our partnership with Classroom Connect and the ability to jointly develop this leadership series will accomplish that goal."

Classroom Connect's eSchool Online platform for turnkey custom online professional development allows school districts and state departments of education to implement large-scale training programs at a fraction of the cost of traditional methods.

"As a former principal and school president, I know firsthand the pressures faced by educational leaders," said Jim Bowler, President and CEO of Classroom Connect. "The powerful approach offered by the eSchool Online professional development platform gives today's administrators the kind of ongoing support not possible just a few years ago. Montgomery County should be commended on this initiative to support their educational leaders."

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About Classroom Connect

Classroom Connect is an award-winning provider of professional development programs and online instructional materials for K-12 education and is focused on two core areas: Technology Integration and Customized Professional Development. eSchool[®] Online is part of Classroom Connect's Customized Professional Development solution that also includes face-to-face workshops and made-to-order conferences for K-12 educators. For more information, contact Classroom Connect by calling (800) 638-1639 or visit www.classroom.com.

Headquartered in Brisbane, California, Classroom Connect is part 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. Reed Elsevier Group plc is owned equally by Reed Elsevier PLC (NYSE: RUK) and Reed Elsevier NV (NYSE: ENL).

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