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Curriculum Associates at the Forefront of a Growing National Trend in Education

States continue to choose i-Ready to measure student growth

NORTH BILLERICA, Mass., May 16, 2012 – Curriculum Associates' i-Ready Diagnostic is leading the way in helping school districts across the country implement new and expanding requirements related to measuring student growth and teacher performance.

Increasingly, states are implementing programs that require a **valid and reliable measure of student growth** that serves as one of multiple inputs in teacher effectiveness. This is driven by increasing Race to the Top funding scrutiny and the more recent No Child Left Behind waiver stipulations.

According to the National Council on Teacher Quality, 23 states currently require objective evidence of student learning in the form of student growth and/or value-added data, and that number will likely continue to rise. In the last two years alone, there has been a nearly 20% increase in the number of states making such reforms. In the two states leading this nationwide trend— New York and Ohio—**i-Ready is one of a few select approved student growth measures for K-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics**. In addition, in New York, a statewide BOCES contract makes a portion of local districts' purchases of i-Ready Diagnostic eligible for state aid reimbursement.

"In the past few years, there has been a significant shift toward using data to measure student growth and teacher quality," said Rob Waldron, President & CEO of Curriculum Associates. "Because of its laser focus on student growth, i-Ready Diagnostic is not only the perfect assessment tool for students and teachers in the classroom, but also **provides clear and concise data and reporting** to district administrators to help fulfill new statewide requirements."

In addition to being built for the Common Core State Standards, in order to be approved by New York and Ohio, Curriculum Associates demonstrated i-Ready's exemplary standard of validity and reliability (each and every item, not just the test as a whole), the **adaptive nature of the technology**, the rigor of the 28,000-student research base, the capacity to measure the growth of both low- and high-achieving students, and the ability to support implementation of the product.

While only in its first year, **nearly 200,000 students across the country** are using i-Ready. It is getting rave reviews from schools and industry leaders alike:

“i-Ready is the best online assessment and instruction combo I’ve ever seen.”
Dr. Eric Conti, Superintendent of Schools, Burlington, Massachusetts; named one of ten most Tech-Savvy Superintendents by eSchool News

“We’ve been thrilled with i-Ready.... It is a great intervention when you want to work with five children but have twenty in the room.”
Robert Hawke, Principal, KIPP Impact Middle School, Jacksonville, Florida

“I got the cutest note from a 3rd grader asking me to let him be on i-Ready because he wants to be a better reader.”
Sheilla Smith Johnson, Principal, Windy Ridge K-8 School, Orlando, Florida

“i-Ready can be used to power your blended learning lab....i-Ready is easier to use and gives teachers more student data information.” *Tom Vander Ark, educational thought leader, author, and former head of Education for Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Tom Vander Ark’s full review of i-Ready is available at: <http://bit.ly/Kgz3hW>)*

In addition to being the highest quality product of its kind available, i-Ready Diagnostic has two features that set it apart from the competition:

1. *Instruction* – The i-Ready family of products is a complete blended learning solution that includes more than **600 fully automated online lessons, plus hundreds of downloadable Tools for Instruction PDFs**. The program generates a combination of lessons that are unique to each student’s diagnostic result and provides an individualized learning plan for each student that is easy to understand and implement. **The online instruction drives student growth forward**, making it easier for teachers to help students effectively and efficiently progress from where they are to where they need to be.
2. *Service* – From the first time customers speak to someone about i-Ready Diagnostic, they are treated as a partner. Whether they have implementation questions or training needs, Curriculum Associates ensures each customer has a **personal account manager** to assist them along the way.

There is more at stake than ever before—for students, teachers, and administrators. The landscape is shifting dramatically, and the changes are hard on everyone. i-Ready is here to help.

For more information, please visit <http://www.i-ready.com> and Curriculum Associates’ YouTube channel, <http://bit.ly/xZZ8J>.

About Curriculum Associates

Founded in 1969, privately owned Curriculum Associates, LLC, designs research-based print and online instructional materials, screening and assessment tools, and data management resources. The company’s products and outstanding customer service provide teachers and administrators with the resources necessary for teaching diverse student populations and fostering learning for all students. For company and product information, visit Curriculum Associates on the Web at <http://www.CurriculumAssociates.com> or call 800-225-0248.

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