

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DataDirector™ Choice of California Charter Schools

Power, Flexibility, and Ease-of-Use: Keys to Selection of Data and Assessment Management Technology

CHICAGO — September 16, 2008 — Riverside Publishing, a subsidiary of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company and a leader in comprehensive educational standards-based assessment, today announced that the California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) will use its online data and assessment management solution DataDirector™ as the core technology behind ZOOM! Data Source, a new statewide technology project developed by CCSA that allows charter schools to instantly access their achievement and other data at the state, school, classroom, and student level.

The project is funded by a \$3 million grant from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, and will ensure access to DataDirector through Zoom! Data Source for more than 600 California charter schools and over 200,000 students in the next 5 years. The program may also be extended to charter schools across the country.

Implementation is well under way, and 189 of California's charter schools have signed up to participate in the first year—more than the 150 initially targeted for this phase, and an indication of an enthusiastic commitment to improvement as well as confidence in the core technology.

“We did our homework,” said Caprice Young, president and CEO of the California Charter Schools Association, “and chose DataDirector for its ability to bring scale and scope to our overall data quality while remaining flexible enough to meet the needs of a diverse charter school community.”

DataDirector integrates data from any number of sources, including state assessments, demographic information, and grades from any student information system (SIS), as well as district-administered tests and daily classroom assessments given by teachers. Any and all data sources can be combined and compared over time to maximize reporting, develop interventions, and create informal assessments, as well as report on transcripts, assessment data, and teacher credentialing information.

“We are very happy to be working with the California Charter Schools Association and to have DataDirector functioning as a key component of ZOOM! Data Source,” said Richard Swartz, president of Riverside Publishing. “The California charter school leaders and participating schools have demonstrated a serious commitment to accountability and the use of data to improve instruction and student performance.”

Currently available in California, Michigan, Texas, Georgia, Illinois, and boasting a 100% client retention rate, DataDirector offers a range of training options that help ensure successful implementations and adoption by both administrators and teachers. It includes a range of optional software and content components, including plain paper and high speed scanning solutions, and high quality formative assessment content modules such as the DataDirector Item Bank™ and Riverside’s Assess2Know®—providing interim benchmark assessments with items aligned to state standards.

For more information, please visit www.datadirector.com or call 877-993-2633

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About DataDirector

DataDirector is an innovative online data and assessment management solution that provides educators with a fast and powerful decision-support system. Designed to help administrators and teachers improve student performance, DataDirector helps make sense of a range of data to provide longitudinal tracking and reporting of student assessment data, student demographic data, and program/event attendance, as well as professional development activities, paraprofessional activities, student grades, and teacher data. Additional information on DataDirector can be found at www.datadirector.com or by calling 877-993-2633.

About Riverside Publishing

Riverside serves both the K–12 educational assessment market and the clinical assessment market with print, CD-ROM and online assessment tools. Among Riverside flagship products are The Iowa Tests®, the *Gates-MacGinitie Reading Tests*®, and *Woodcock-Johnson® III*, as well as DataDirector™, and *Assess2Know*®. Riverside also develops custom, scientifically research-based solutions to meet the unique needs of states and school districts across the nation. Riverside Publishing is a wholly owned subsidiary of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Information on Riverside products and services can be found at www.riversidepublishing.com or by calling 800-323-9540.

About Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Boston-based Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company is a global education company with approximately \$2.5 billion in combined revenue. The Company publishes a comprehensive set of best-in-class pre-K–12 educational solutions, ranging from research-based textbook programs to instructional technology to standards-based assessments for students and educators. The Company also publishes an extensive line of reference works and award-winning literature for adults and young readers. With origins dating back to 1832, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt combines its tradition of excellence with a commitment to innovation. To learn more about Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, visit www.hmhco.com.