



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leading Reading Measurement Companies to Link Early Literacy Assessment to Most Widely Adopted Reading Measure

2006-2007 Study Will Link Lexiles and DIBELS

CHICAGO - May 2, 2006 - This week at the International Reading Association Conference, MetaMetrics, Inc., developer of The Lexile Framework® for Reading; Dynamic Measurement Group, developer of Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS®); and Wireless Generation, an educational software and services company, announced plans to conduct a linking study during the 2006-2007 school year that will make Lexile® measures from DIBELS data available in summer 2007. As part of the study, Wireless Generation will develop a special Lexile report, based on DIBELS data, for users of its mCLASS® handheld-to-Web assessment software.

As the most widely adopted reading measure in use today, The Lexile Framework provides a common scale for matching reader ability and text difficulty, allowing easy monitoring of student progress and ensuring reading comprehension. Recognized as the most accurate way to match readers with text, there are currently Lexile measures for more than 100,000 books and more than 80 million articles. More than 20 million students will receive a Lexile measure during the 2005-2006 school year.

“By linking the DIBELS and Lexile reading measures, teachers and parents will be able to connect very young readers with targeted materials from the more than 100,000 books and more than 80 million articles with Lexile measures,” said Malbert Smith III, Ph.D., president, MetaMetrics. “By reading materials that are ability-appropriate, more children will be able to build strong literacy skills and increase their chances of becoming lifelong readers.”

DIBELS is a set of standardized, individually administered measures of early literacy development. The measures assess skills that are consistent with the essential early literacy domains discussed in both the National Reading Panel (2000) and National Research Council (1998) reports in the areas of phonemic awareness, alphabetic understanding, accuracy and fluency, vocabulary development, and comprehension. Each DIBELS measure has been researched and has demonstrated to be a reliable and valid indicator of early literacy development and predictor of later reading proficiency.

Roland Good III, Ph.D., co-author of DIBELS and associate professor at the University of Oregon, said that understanding a child's reading ability at the earliest age and working to develop skill levels are keys to building strong readers. "It is natural to link DIBELS to Lexiles so students have reading measures that follow them throughout their educational careers, and are used to connect them with materials that promote reading comprehension both at school and at home," he said.

"Linking DIBELS with Lexiles is important because it gives teachers and parents another path from assessment data to the right instructional materials and books for each child," said Larry Berger, CEO and co-founder of Wireless Generation. "We look forward to adding a Lexile linkage report to our mCLASS:DIBELS and mCLASS:Reading 3D assessment software at the conclusion of the study as an additional resource for educators in understanding, interpreting and acting on DIBELS data."

Good will join other nationally recognized experts on reading and assessment as a keynote speaker at the 2006 Lexile National Reading Conference, June 19-21, in Atlanta. Also slated to present at the conference is Susan Hall, Ed.D., president of 95 Percent Group. Hall is the author of "I've DIBEL'd - Now What?" and has developed instructional activities linked to DIBELS data available through the mCLASS:DIBELS "Act" feature.

The conference theme is "Developing Tomorrow's Readers...Today." To register or for more information, visit www.lexile.com/conference2006.

For more information on DIBELS, visit <http://dibels.uoregon.edu>, or www.dibels.org.

About Wireless Generation

Wireless Generation has pioneered the use of handheld-to-Web technology in PreK-6 classrooms for easy, efficient, and accurate formative assessment, including screening, diagnosis, progress monitoring and reporting. Its mCLASS software and services enable schools to use real-time data about student progress to improve reading and math achievement, and to reduce special education referrals. The company currently serves more than 80,000 teachers and approximately 1.5 million children in 48 states and abroad. More information is available on the Web at www.wirelessgeneration.com.

About DMG

Dynamic Measurement Group is a consortium of educational professionals dedicated to promoting the implementation of research-based educational assessment and intervention practices in schools in order to improve outcomes for children and support school success.

About The Lexile Framework for Reading

MetaMetrics Inc. developed The Lexile Framework for Reading and its companion scale, The Quantile Framework® for Mathematics. The Lexile Framework provides a common scale for matching reader ability and text difficulty, enabling teachers and parents to choose materials that can help to improve student reading skills and monitor literacy across the curriculum and at home. Recognized as the most widely adopted reading measure in use today, Lexiles are part of reading and testing programs at the district, state and federal levels. More than 100,000 books and 80 million articles have Lexile measures, and all major standardized tests can report student reading scores in Lexiles. Launched in 2004, Quantiles® measure student mathematical achievement and concept/application solvability similar to the way Lexiles measure reading proficiency. The Quantile Framework represents a student's ability to think mathematically in a taxonomy of math skills, concepts and applications. The Quantile strands – Geometry; Measurement; Numbers and Operations; Algebra/Patterns & Functions; and Data Analysis & Probability – integrate and align with the strands described by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).

For more information, press only:

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