

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Lexiles Arrive in the Grand Canyon State:
Arizona Department of Education Links Assessments
to Measure for Improving Literacy Skills**

*Reading Measure Supports State Superintendent Horne's
2007 Education Initiatives*

PHOENIX, Ariz., & DURHAM, N.C. – March 20, 2007 – More than 500,000 Arizona students in grades 3–8 and 10 will start the 2007–2008 school year with a powerful new tool that educators and parents can use to improve students' literacy skills. As the result of an agreement between MetaMetrics® Inc. and the Arizona Department of Education, Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) will be linked with The Lexile Framework® for Reading.

The Lexile Framework provides a common, developmental scale for matching reader ability and text difficulty. Lexile® measures enable educators, parents and students to select targeted materials that can improve reading skills and to monitor reading growth across the curriculum, in the library and at home. Recognized as the most widely adopted reading measure, Lexiles are part of reading and testing programs in the classroom and at the district and state levels.

"Our 2007 statewide initiatives are focused on advancing education excellence for Arizona students," said Tom Horne, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. "Adding Lexiles to our assessments gives our state's educators, parents and students an actionable tool for meeting our goal of ensuring that all Arizona students are prepared for the demands of life in the 21st century."

Students in grades 3–8 take the AIMS DPA (Dual Purpose Assessment), a combination of AIMS criterion-referenced assessment questions developed by Arizona educators based on the state's academic standards, and questions from the TerraNova, a

national norm-referenced test created by CTB/McGraw-Hill. Students in 10th grade take the AIMS HS (High School) based on the Arizona Academic standards in writing, reading and mathematics.

“It is exciting to add Arizona to the growing list of states that have linked their assessments to the Lexile Framework,” said Malbert Smith III, Ph.D., president, MetaMetrics Inc., developer of the Lexile Framework. “Using Lexiles to connect assessment with instruction will help teachers, parents and students achieve the state’s ambitious learning goals.”

Arizona educators and their colleagues from other states who want to learn more about using Lexiles to improve student reading abilities are invited to attend the 2007 Lexile National Reading Conference, June 18–20, at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Fla. The theme for the conference, now in its fourth year, is “Reading Beyond the Classroom.”

Available through March 31, 2007, discounted early bird registration is \$299 per person, and standard registration is \$399 per person. To register or for more information, visit www.lexile.com/conference2007.

About MetaMetrics Inc.

MetaMetrics, a privately held educational measurement company, develops scientifically based measures of student achievement that link assessment with instruction, foster better educational practices and improve learning by matching students to materials that meet and challenge their abilities. The company’s team of experienced psychometricians developed The Lexile Framework for Reading and its companion scale, The Quantile Framework® for Mathematics. The Lexile Framework (www.Lexile.com) provides a common, developmental scale for matching reader ability and text difficulty. Lexile measures enable educators, parents and students to select targeted materials that can improve reading skills and to monitor reading growth across the curriculum, in the library and at home. Recognized as the most widely adopted reading measure, Lexiles are part of reading and testing programs in the classroom and at the district and state levels. More than 100,000 books, 80 million articles and 60,000 Web sites have Lexile measures, and all major standardized tests can report student reading scores in Lexiles. The Quantile Framework (www.Quantiles.com) measures mathematics achievement and the difficulty of mathematical skills and problems similar to the way Lexiles measure reading ability and

text readability. Quantiles® identify the mathematical skills a student has learned, those that require instruction and new skills the student is ready to learn, enabling educators to use Quantile measures to target instruction, monitor student progress and forecast performance on high-stakes tests.

For more information, press only:

The Lexile Framework for Reading/The Quantile Framework for Mathematics

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