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October 23, 2012

Attn: Monique Robinson
Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
101 N. 14th Street, 21st Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: RFP No. DOE-SGA-2012-15 for Student Growth Assessments

Renaissance Learning™, Inc., is pleased to present the Virginia Department of Education with our computer-adaptive assessments for review. The STAR Enterprise™ assessments are built on sound psychometrics and years of careful research. They are designed to help educators measure student growth and provide targeted instruction that improves student achievement.

- **STAR Reading Enterprise™** offers skills-based reading assessment for students in grades 1–12. It is also suitable for use with independent readers in kindergarten classes.
- **STAR Early Literacy Enterprise™** assesses mastery of key literacy skills for emerging readers in grades pre-K–3, English language learners, students who are struggling, and those with special needs.
- **STAR Math Enterprise™** assesses math achievement for students in grades 1–12.

Renaissance Learning has over 25 years of experience helping educators understand how to use growth data for a variety of purposes, such as Response to Intervention, goal setting, and benchmarking. As states and districts began implementing systems for evaluating educator effectiveness, we leveraged this experience, in collaboration with growth measurement experts.

The STAR assessments have been approved as reliable and valid measures of growth specifically for educator evaluation in New York, Tennessee, and Ohio. While each state's evaluation model is different, we know the overarching goals are the same: to improve teaching effectiveness, increase learning outcomes for all students, and incorporate interim data that helps educators see the path ahead in time to adjust it.

In the following pages, we explain three ways that the STAR assessments report growth: student growth percentiles, weekly growth rates, and pretest-to-posttest growth. We are confident you will see that, when it comes to measuring student growth over time and conveying the results to educators in ways that are useful and instructionally relevant, the STAR assessments lead the way.

We admire the work Virginia has done, and we look forward to bringing our own experience to a partnership with the Virginia Department of Education. If you require more information about STAR or have any questions about this proposal, please contact me at (800) 338-4204, extension 4144.

Sincerely,

Debra C. Schoenick
Vice President, Strategic Support