

STI RELEASES NEW ASSESSMENT TOOL TO HELP EDUCATORS FACILITATE DATA-DRIVEN INSTRUCTION AND INCREASE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

‘STIAssessment’ integrates with any student information system to deliver comprehensive, easy-to-use reports

MOBILE, ALA. (June 21, 2004) – Nationwide, educators are facing increasing demands to track student performance and utilize data to drive instruction and ultimately, improve student achievement. In response to the needs of schools and educators for an integrated solution, Software Technology, Inc. (STI) announces today the release of *STIAssessment*. This powerful, new web-based assessment solution from the nation’s leading source of integrated information systems for K-12 school systems links student information systems with curriculum and assessment for easy management.

“Without the integration of systems, data is disparate, and it is difficult to pinpoint areas for improvement in curriculum and instruction,” said Rob Fiance, CEO of STI. “Our new tool allows for the archiving and alignment of student data to assessment data, creating a living assessment record that follows students throughout their school career. *STIAssessment* integrates with any student information system to help schools increase student achievement and meet NCLB requirements.”

The American Association for Higher Learning outlined in its “Nine Principle of Good Practice for Assessing Student Learning,” how assessment should be conducted to achieve best results. Assessment should be viewed as cumulative process that entails linking a series of activities undertaken over time. Schools need to track and monitor students’ progress toward intended goals “in a spirit of continuous improvement.” With the integrated platform of *STIAssessment*, frequent benchmark testing and continuous tracking of student assessment is convenient and easy to manage.

Because of the unique requirements of the daily school environment, educators need flexible solutions and real-time data. *STICreator*, part of the STI’s assessment solution, is a unique tool that allows educators to develop their own test items and tag them to state and district benchmarks to create their own assessments. Educators can also select questions from a test item bank to create benchmark assessments with statistically valid test items that are tightly aligned to local standards. *STIAssessment* addresses the varying levels of access to technology in the classroom by allowing educators to easily deliver and score assessments either online or on

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paper. The scanning technology offered in *STIAssessment* imports paper-based student test scores into the online assessment platform. Minutes after students have taken their tests, *STIAssessment* provides formative assessment data by student, class, school or district. Reports can be accessed online for immediate feedback, and data can easily be exported into Microsoft Excel® to complete the mandated Adequate Yearly Progress and other reports.

Online data analysis tools in *STIAssessment* create meaningful data for schools that link data to classroom instruction and provide the opportunity for timely remediation. District administrators, principals and teachers can create reports to easily and quickly identify students' strengths and weaknesses and alter instruction to meet the students' needs. Administrators can view aggregated and disaggregated test performance data to determine the allocation of resources and funds where they are needed most.

"With our integrated, assessment solution, teachers and administrators can be more at ease during test time," added Fiance. "Teachers don't have to work late at night creating test questions that they hope address local standards or wait several weeks for test results while students in need fall further behind. By giving schools the tools to identify areas for improvement that were previously difficult to find, we are helping light the path to increased achievement for every student."

To complement its assessment offering, STI provides training and continuous support and upgrades, as the company has with its other products for more than 20 years.

About STI

STI develops and distributes comprehensive information management software for K-12 school systems and provides support and training services. STI's fully integrated suite of products addresses attendance, scheduling, special education, assessment, discipline, grade reporting, professional development, fund accounting, health, and parent/teacher communications and is used in more than 7,000 schools in 28 states. The company was founded in 1982 and is headquartered in Mobile, Ala. For more information, phone 800-844-0884 or visit www.sti-k12.com.

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