

## NEWS RELEASE

For more information contact:  
Eileen Demers  
Excelsior Software  
800-473-4572, ext. 149  
[edemers@excelsiorsoftware.com](mailto:edemers@excelsiorsoftware.com)

For immediate release  
Bonnie Sierlecki  
C. Blohm & Associates, Inc.  
608-839-9800  
[bonnie@cblohm.com](mailto:bonnie@cblohm.com)

### **Broward County Public Schools Partner With Excelsior Software**

*Florida district cites teacher productivity, parent communication  
as key needs filled by Pinnacle System*

GREELEY, COLO. (October 26, 2005) – This school year, the nation’s sixth-largest district has the ability to instantly record and communicate student data that can be used by the entire school community to improve student performance. Broward County Public Schools is the latest Florida district to contract with Excelsior Software to deliver the Pinnacle assessment system district-wide. Excelsior now serves an estimated 60% of all Florida students, including both Broward and Miami-Dade public school districts.

Prior to the new five-year contract, several Broward County schools were already using the Pinnacle gradebook, but by implementing the system district-wide, all schools will be able to reap the benefits. “The Pinnacle gradebook is an excellent technological tool for use by principals, teachers, students and parents for keeping track of all students’ progress on a real-time basis,” said Dr. Earlean Smiley, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction, Broward County Public Schools. “This 24/7 technology provides instant access to every students’ grades and test scores in a secure environment, allowing for prompt adjustments to be made in curriculum and instruction as needed to escalate performance and enhance the educational experience for everyone involved in the process.”

Some of the largest districts in the nation are consistently choosing Excelsior Software for assessment management, including Broward, Miami-Dade, and Montgomery County (Md.). The Pinnacle System’s unparalleled scalability plus its ability to fully centralize complex data sources and address the unique needs of large school districts have proven to be key determinants for a growing number of district-wide implementations.

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“Drawing actionable conclusions from student data in order to transform student performance is so critical,” noted William Zagle, CEO of Excelsior Software. “We serve over 1,000 different districts of all sizes and budgets, yet each of those districts essentially has a common goal: to provide technology solutions that support their teachers, engage students in their own education, and ultimately raise student achievement. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to work toward fulfilling those goals with the educators of Broward county.”

Teachers using the electronic gradebook component of the Pinnacle System consistently cite the significant time savings afforded by the technology tool, allowing for more time to be spent on direct classroom instruction. District staff can also automate time-consuming administrative tasks, such as creating student rosters, collecting attendance and generating report cards.

At a school-wide or district-wide level, the Pinnacle System collects and manages the data from every teacher’s desktop, communicating student information to the larger school community – including parents. The Pinnacle Internet Viewer application ensures that each district is keeping parents regularly informed about their children’s progress, attendance, discipline and important school events.

Excelsior will work closely with the Broward school district throughout the countywide deployment process, providing extensive training on implementation of the Pinnacle System. The remaining terms of the contract were not disclosed.

For more information, visit [www.excelsiorsoftware.com](http://www.excelsiorsoftware.com).

### **About Excelsior Software**

Excelsior Software is committed to raising student achievement by providing immediate access to performance information, increasing teacher productivity, and improving communication. As the pioneer of the electronic gradebook concept in 1986, Excelsior’s experience in assessment management supports educators by delivering the technical innovations that meet the needs of today’s evolving data-driven educational system. The company’s Pinnacle Plus software solution automatically tracks and reports student progress and attendance data to educators and parents at the individual, group, class, school, and district levels. Currently, Excelsior works with educators in nearly 1,000 districts nationwide. Its Pinnacle Plus solution is certified under the SIF Certification Program and is the sole student assessment software product recommended by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD). Excelsior remains privately owned by its original founders, with company headquarters in Greeley, Colo. For more information, visit [www.excelsiorsoftware.com](http://www.excelsiorsoftware.com) or phone 1-800-472-4572.

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