



Contact:
Josh Bohls
VP Product Management
(512) 697-7000
jbohls@ignitelearning.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ignite! Learning Announces STAAR Enhancement Roadmap for Texas Edition Digital Curriculum System

AUSTIN, TX, April 12, 2011 – Ignite! Learning today announced plans to enhance their Texas Edition digital curriculum system to be better aligned with the new State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR).

STAAR represents a dramatic shift in how Texas students’ skills and proficiencies are going to be measured moving forward. STAAR is more than just changes in the testing design and format. The academic rigor of exam items is increasing as learning standards will be tested at a greater depth and level of complexity than in the past.

“As the new tests will emphasize the assessment of curriculum standards that best prepare students for the next grade or course, it is more important than ever that districts implement an aligned, standards-based curriculum and have quality tools for measuring curriculum mastery from grade to grade and school to school” remarks Dr. Denise Collier, former Chief Academic Officer, Dallas ISD.

From the introduction of readiness and supporting standards and the incorporation of process skills into core content questions, Texas educators are working hard to prepare standards-driven, aligned instructional plans in time for the new academic year. Adding in the extreme budgetary environment facing districts across the State, Curriculum and Instruction teams have never faced more intense pressure.

Ignite! is committed to rapidly updating products and services to meet the needs of their school district partners. The new embedded features related to STAAR will enable teachers to gauge individual students’ knowledge and skills through a variety of rigorous, engaging assessment opportunities, while ensuring they are prepared for the high-pressure demands of testing. Most notably, educators will have the ability to incorporate assessment routines within the context of

the academic content, thereby building contextual bridges between the lesson and the assessment and inherently preparing students for mastery of the high stakes test. Some of the specific enhancements that will be available to meet the high standards of STAAR will include:

- Rubrics for current open-ended assessments to allow teachers an array of factors with which to evaluate submitted student material.
- Correlated assessment items by Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), so that teachers can quickly assess student mastery of content and process skills within the guidelines and pacing of the district's local scope and sequence.
- New summative assessments aligned to every curriculum Unit across math, science, and social studies, matching the content and rigor of the associated TEKS, and the context and format of these assessments will be informed by research on quality student assessment and the content, design, and format of the new STAAR test items.

“Our digital products allow us to easily update our content to keep up with the ever-changing educational landscape, stated Ignite! Learning CEO Ken Leonard. “Our record of innovation across any number of content-centric features from standards, to curriculum and instructional alignments, to technological ease, utility and flexibility are being complemented with innovative advances in data collection and assessment to further support our customers.”

ABOUT IGNITE! LEARNING (www.ignitelearning.com)

Ignite! Learning is the leading middle school digital content solution focusing on motivating hard-to-reach learners and enhancing local standards-based instruction. Their interactive Math, Science, Social Studies, and Special Education solutions are available for all 50 states, across Grades 4-8. **Ignite! Learning** targets sustained middle school academic progress with interactive materials designed to state, local, subject, and grade-level priorities that integrate with existing technology, support classroom instruction, and promote critical thinking. **Ignite!** serves more than 1 million students in middle school classrooms across the country. For more information, call (866) 464-4648, email sales@ignitelearning.com, or visit www.ignitelearning.com.

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