



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State of Arkansas Awards Questar Assessment, Inc., Augmented Benchmark Examinations Program Contract

Apple Valley, MN, July 7, 2010 — Questar Assessment, Inc. (Questar), a leading educational assessment provider for states, school districts, and higher education institutions, has announced a contract award from the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) for the Augmented Benchmark Examinations program (Benchmark), part of the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program (ACTAAP). This comprehensive NCLB program combines criterion-referenced and norm-referenced items in Grades 3–8 and provides stand-alone norm-referenced tests (NRT) in Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, and 9. An estimated 350,000 Arkansas students in Grades K–9 will participate in the program next year.

Questar's contract for the Benchmark assessment begins with the 2010–2011 school year and with renewal options, extends through 2017. Questar offers extensive experience in K–12 assessments and has administered the majority of ACTAAP programs since 2001, including the Benchmark program from 2001–2007, the End-of-Course and Grade 11 Literacy Examinations from 2005–Present, and the Alternate Portfolio Assessment from 2001–Present.

“We are proud to partner with Dr. Gayle Potter and the Arkansas Department of Education to administer the statewide assessment,” said Roy Lipner, President and CEO of Questar. “This program represents our mutual dedication to student achievement and educational excellence.”

“We are delighted to be working with Questar again in the development and administration of the Augmented Benchmark Examinations,” said Dr. Gayle Potter, Director of Curriculum and Assessment. “Questar brings a wealth of large-scale assessment experience to the Benchmark program and will be an excellent partner to continue to drive accountability and excellence for Arkansas schools.”

About Questar Assessment, Inc.

Questar Assessment, Inc., (Questar) is a leading educational assessment provider for states, schools, and school districts. Headquartered in Minnesota and New York, Questar offers comprehensive, custom assessment services—from large-scale statewide assessment programs to alternate, modified, and English language proficiency assessments. Questar provides complete, end-to-end services designed to address all aspects of assessment from test design, development, calibration, and psychometric services to print production, distribution,

scanning, scoring, reporting, and data analysis. Questar also offers customized online testing services to schools and educational entities in the K–12 market. For further information, visit www.QuestarAI.com or call 800-800-2598.

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