

# **BUCKLE DOWN PUBLISHING**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **BUCKLE DOWN PUBLISHING RELEASES NEW ACHIEVEMENT EDITIONS OF POPULAR OHIO TEST-PREP SERIES**

Iowa City, IA, October 18, 2005 — Buckle Down Publishing, a leader in state-specific test preparation and a Houghton Mifflin Company, has announced the release of 18 new editions to its popular Ohio test-preparation product line. The new editions are in response to the State of Ohio replacing its former Proficiency Tests with the new Achievement Tests. The new Achievement editions continue Buckle Down's long-standing commitment to Ohio students and educators that began over 13 years ago with the company's first state-specific test-preparation series developed exclusively for Ohio.

Highlights of the new *Buckle Down Ohio Achievement* series include:

- Strict alignment with the format and appearance of the new Achievement Tests while providing a focused review of the Ohio Academic Content Standards.
- Regionalized content features references to Ohio people, places, and culture.
- Complete product line addresses all tested grades and subjects as well as additional "prep" grades. This includes Reading for Grades 2–7, Writing and Mathematics for Grades 2–6, and Science and Social Studies for Grade 3.
- Workbook packs now include two free practice test forms for easy pre-testing and post-testing.

Linda Hein, Buckle Down Publishing's President and CEO, said: "Since the days of the Proficiency Tests, Ohio educators have depended on Buckle Down Publishing for the tools students need to succeed. Our new Achievement line continues this tradition. From

the tight alignment with the new test format and state standards to new features such as two separate practice test forms included free with each workbook pack, this new Achievement line continues Buckle Down’s rich history of serving Ohio students and educators.”

Buckle Down Publishing’s Ohio Educational Consultant, Mike Gerholdt, is available to answer questions at 800-776-3454.

**About Buckle Down Publishing:**

Buckle Down Publishing, a division of Hights Cross Communications’ Triumph Learning unit, is one of the nation’s leading publishers of state-specific, test-preparation materials. Founded in 1982 and based in Iowa City, IA, Buckle Down creates supplemental student workbooks and practice tests that combine standards-based instruction and test-formatted practice with regionalized content. Together, Buckle Down and Triumph Learning is the largest publisher of standards-focused instructional materials used to prepare for the tests mandated by NCLB legislation. For more information, visit [www.buckledown.com](http://www.buckledown.com).

**About Hights Cross Communications:**

Founded in 1997 and based in White Plains, NY, Hights Cross is a leading developer and publisher of products for the kindergarten through twelfth grade, or K-12, supplemental education, library, and medical education markets. Hights Cross imprints include: Sundance/Newbridge Educational Publishing (Northborough, MA), Triumph Learning (New York, NY), Buckle Down Publishing (Iowa City, IA), Options Publishing (Merrimack, NH), Recorded Books (Prince Frederick, MD), and Oakstone Publishing (Birmingham, AL). For more information, visit [www.hightscross.com](http://www.hightscross.com).

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**Safe Harbor Statement:** This press release contains forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “could,” “would,” “expect,” “plan,” “anticipate,” “believe,” “potential,” and similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are based on assumptions and subject to risks and uncertainties. These risks, uncertainties, and other factors may cause our actual results, performances, or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied by our forward-looking statements. Factors that may cause our actual results to differ materially from our forward-looking statements include, among others, changes in external market factors, changes in our business or growth strategy, or an inability to execute our strategy due to changes in our industry or the economy generally, the emergence of new or growing competitors and various other competitive factors. In light of these risks and uncertainties, there can be no assurance that the events and circumstances described in forward-looking statements contained in this press release will in fact occur. You should read this press release completely and with the understanding that our actual results may be materially different from what we

**expect. We will not update these forward-looking statements, even though our situation may change in the future. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.**

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