

OPTIONS PUBLISHING **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPTIONS PUBLISHING INTRODUCES READING AND MATH INTERVENTION PACKAGES

Powerful combinations of instructional and independent supplemental materials help build performance and improve test scores for students in after school, summer school, and special programs in Grades K-8

Merrimack, NH – May 17, 2006—Options Publishing, a leading publisher of supplemental education materials and intervention programs, and a Hights Cross Communications company, today announced it has expanded its extensive line of Intervention Packages covering Grades K-8. These intervention packages are currently shipping in volume.

Barbara Russell, Options Publishing’s President and CEO, said: “Thousands of school districts are investing in intervention programs to provide students with focused skills development by using standards-based curriculum. Options Publishing’s unique intervention packages for reading and math are based on the simple, but powerful, model of ‘diagnose, instruct, practice, and test.’ Time is limited in an after school, summer school, and other special programs. Teachers find they can use Options Publishing’s intervention materials to strengthen students’ skills in specific areas, build confidence, and improve performance on high-stakes tests,” Russell said.

Options Publishing’s intervention packages allow teachers to create customized collections of materials that are closely aligned with students’ immediate intervention needs. Options Publishing’s widely recognized intervention materials support a proven intervention instructional model:

- Diagnose: *Best Practices in Reading Pretest, Options Reading Predictors; Math Achievement Predictors.*
- Instruct: *Best Practices in Reading, Just Right Reading, Connecting Vocabulary; Breakaway Math.*
- Extend and Practice: *Best Practices Classroom Library Books and Connecting Vocabulary, Short Subjects in Reading; Math Tools, Short Subjects in Math.*

- Assess: *Best Practices in Reading Posttest, Options Reading Predictors; Math Achievement Predictors,*

Options Publishing said its math intervention materials are based on integrated, scaffolded instruction and NCTM standards; practicing with prerequisite skills, building to on-level exploration of a skill, developing problem solving, moving students to independent practice, and preparing students for independent performance and improved test scores. Options Publishing reading intervention materials pair fiction with nonfiction to teach comprehension; and provide rich practice materials for phonemic awareness, phonics, comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, oral language development, word study, and writing.

For more information about Options Publishing's Intervention Packages, call Options Publishing at 800-782-7300

About Options Publishing:

Options Publishing, established in 1993 and based in Merrimack, NH, is a leading publisher of supplemental education materials and intervention programs. Options Publishing's products follow a research-based approach, encourage parent involvement, and support student test preparation.

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.

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.

