

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Writing Practice and Instruction for the Digital Age...*

## **TEA Extends PEG Writing® to more than 100,000 Texas Students**

DURHAM, NC (September 17, 2015) — Following the successful pilot of PEG Writing® during the 2014-15 school year, the award-winning Web-based writing assessment and instructional support platform is being released to more than 100,000 students in grades 6-12 through a Texas Education Agency grant to the Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk and the Vaughn Gross Center for Reading and Language Arts in the University of Texas at Austin College of Education.

During the pilot year, 34 districts, 104 schools, and more than 50,000 students and 1,200 teachers signed up for the online program which is designed to:

- Supply students with more practice, feedback, and tools to improve their writing skills
- Increase writing evaluation efficiency and allow teachers more time to focus on strategies to enhance and differentiate instruction based on student needs
- Help administrators monitor writing performance and improve writing instruction

This year, more than 100,000 students are expected to subscribe, with special consideration being given to those schools participating in the Write for Texas teacher support program.

“We are deeply honored that the TEA has elected to double the potential impact of PEG Writing by extending it more schools and students,” said Dr. Henry Scherich, President of Measurement Incorporated, the developer of the writing platform. “We are also delighted to be working more directly with the Meadows and Vaughn Gross Centers. Those associations will help us better align our efforts with the complementary Write for Texas (W4T) professional development program and the Texas Literacy Initiative (TLI).”

### **About PEG Writing**

PEG Writing ([www.pegwriting.com](http://www.pegwriting.com)) is a web-based writing platform designed to help students develop their writing skills through frequent practice, timely feedback, and engaging online instructional support. The solution is powered by Project Essay Grade® (PEG®) software, an award-winning predictive scoring technology based on more than 40 years of research by [Ellis Batten Page](#), whose pioneering work in the field of computational linguistics has distinguished him as the father of computer-based essay scoring. In 2002, MI acquired the PEG technology and continues to develop it for use in a wide variety of applications in addition to PEG Writing. Coupled with MI's 30+ years of experience in performance assessment (human scoring of constructed response items, essays, and other performance tasks), today's PEG software delivers valid and reliable scoring unrivaled in the industry.

### **About Measurement Incorporated**

Headquartered in Durham, North Carolina, MI has been a leader in the educational assessment industry since 1980. The company provides a wide range of educational and testing services and specializes in the development, scoring and reporting of large-scale educational tests.

### **About the Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk (MCPER)**

MCPER is dedicated to generating, disseminating, and supporting the implementation of empirically validated practices to influence educators, researchers, policymakers, families, and other stakeholders who strive to improve academic, behavioral, and social outcomes for all learners.

Created in the spring of 2008 with a major commitment from the Meadows Foundation of Dallas, MCPER is a collaboration of researchers from multiple disciplines and sites, including the Vaughn Gross Center for Reading and Language Arts in The University of Texas at Austin College of Education.

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