

# NEWS RELEASE

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## NEO by AlphaSmart wins coveted Teachers' Choice Award

**February 21, 2008, Wisconsin Rapids, WI**—*Learning Magazine* has awarded its prestigious 2008 Teachers' Choice Award to the NEO laptop by AlphaSmart.

The Teachers' Choice Awards for the Classroom, sponsored by *Learning Magazine*, are given for exceptional classroom products. The NEO was selected for this honor based on evaluations from teacher teams across the United States.

The durable NEO laptops help teachers more effectively implement research-proven strategies for improving students' writing through personalized practice. These tools keep students focused on writing, while providing teachers with ample opportunities to differentiate instruction. The one-to-one communication encourages students' independent learning, increasing both the quality and quantity of their writing.

"Renaissance Learning has an established history of providing quality educational programs for children," said Anne Sumpter, publisher of *Learning Magazine*. "It's great to see NEO recognized for its contribution in today's classrooms."

NEO's built-in applications include a complete word processor loaded with writing tools. NEO offers nearly 400 writing lessons designed for elementary, middle school and high school students. Students can use NEO's built-in rubrics to self-assess their own work or the work of peers. Teachers can use NEO's classroom management tools to help differentiate instruction for their students. Extremely easy-to-use, durable, and distraction-free, NEO offers a full-sized keyboard, automatic save features, and up to 700 hours of operation on three AA batteries.

"The NEO is enabling student writing practice in classrooms across the country," said Greg Wright, Sr. Vice President and General Manager of Renaissance Learning's Electronics Division. "We are honored to receive this award, in light of our mission to make NEO the teacher-preferred tool for increasing student writing enthusiasm."

This news comes after a recent announcement of the expansion to the NEO laptop line. The NEO 2 combines the features of the original NEO with enhanced functionality for the classroom, including two-way communication, wireless printing, and the ability to run a number of Renaissance Learning software programs, including the company's flagship product, Accelerated Reader™, with the March 2008 release of Renaissance Place version 7.5.

### **About Renaissance Learning, Inc.**

Renaissance Learning, Inc. is the world's leading provider of computer-based assessment technology for Pre-K–12 schools. Adopted by more than 73,000 North American schools, Renaissance Learning's tools provide daily formative assessment and periodic progress-monitoring technology to enhance core curriculum, support differentiated instruction, and personalize practice in reading, writing and math. Renaissance Learning products help educators make the practice component of their existing curriculum more effective by providing tools to personalize practice and easily manage the daily activities for students of all levels. As a result, teachers using Renaissance Learning products accelerate learning, get more satisfaction from teaching, and help students achieve higher test scores on state and national tests. Renaissance Learning has seven U.S. locations and subsidiaries in Canada, India, and the United Kingdom.