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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rapid Gains in Achievement Close Math Skill Gaps across the United States

(Austin, TX) – Ascend Education has released data from five recent case studies, underscoring the efficacy of the company’s Ascend® Math Solution, Release 3.3. Focused specifically on closing math skill gaps, this targeted math intervention solution is now in use in a wide range of instructional settings, including before/after school programs, classrooms, computer labs, alternative learning environments, and in students’ homes.

Manatee County, Florida Middle School Students Make Dramatic Math Gains

In Manatee County, Florida, 201 students at Nolan Middle School participated in remediation classes in which The Ascend Math Solution was used. In aggregate, these students achieved a total increase of 2,727 points on the Norm Reference Test (NRT), with an average per-student gain of 22.17 points. Due to these gains, Nolan Middle School was named a top performing school in Manatee County for the '07-'08 school year.

Pre assessments using The Ascend program identified students who were working below grade level. Ascend’s individualized learning plans and targeted instruction were then automatically delivered, with 34 percent of all students and 43 percent of grade 7 and 8 students accomplishing two grade levels of proficiency growth over the course of the single semester pilot. Additional data points out that 58 percent of the students identified as “struggling” achieved a full year’s gain in math in the five month intervention period.

25.7% Average Student Gain at Aspen Valley High School in Colorado

Aspen Valley High School in Colorado's Academy School District is a school of choice for students who benefit from a non-traditional learning environment. School leaders chose The Ascend Math Solution because it aligned with their goal of using technology to differentiate instruction for each student. Additionally, Ascend supported the school's mandate to improve math achievement for their at-risk student population. Ascend's individualized learning plans and differentiated instruction gave students the targeted instruction they needed to realize immediate success. Students track their own progress and this served as a strong motivator as well. Students who used The Ascend Math Solution recorded gains of 7 percent on their ACT scores over the prior year. Equally impressive, more than 62 percent of the students using Ascend achieve grade level gains of one grade or more, with 13 percent posting a two grade level gain during the intervention period. School officials point out that these students' growth in academic achievement more than doubled that of all other students in the district, as verified by third party test results.

Cleburne ISD in Texas Uses Ascend to Diagnose Math Deficiencies and Propel Alternative Education Students Forward

Officials at the Cleburne ISD Alternative Education Program chose The Ascend Math Solution based on the program's ability to create, instruct, and administer customized individualized education plans for student in math, one of the district's high-priority instructional areas.

Students' gains were impressive:

- Grade 5 students posted a 24% score gain
- Grade 6 students posted a 38% score gain
- Grade 7 students posted a 29% score gain
- Grade 8 students posted a 44% score gain
- Algebra 1 students posted a 32% score gain

Cleburne educators use Ascend to intervene effectively because of its comprehensive diagnostics and the program's proven ability to fill in math skill gaps before students fall further behind.

Breakthrough Education Strategies, West Hartford, Connecticut Boosts Math Scores by 37%

Students attending the Breakthrough Education Strategies reinvention program for at-risk students posted an average math score gain of 37 percent in Ascend pre- vs. post assessment test results. Breakthrough Education Strategies uses a powerful, innovative educational model for systemic, comprehensive change. To meet objectives in math, the program selected

The Ascend Math Solution. Students who utilized Ascend for 60 or more hours exhibited greater than two years of academic growth. Program officials report that their model, coupled with resources, such as Ascend, is proving to be highly effective in keeping at risk students in school, improving behavioral choices, and improving academic success.

Pinellas County, Florida High School Students Improve Math Scores by 28.7%

During the spring 2008 semester at Lakewood High School in Pinellas County, Florida, 78 students participated in a six-week pilot program using The Ascend Math Solution. These students were enrolled in this program as remediation and preparation for the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). Average gains in Ascend for these students were 27.4 percent. Students spent an average of 8.9 hours using The Ascend Math Solution during the pilot period. At the completion of the program, 78% of students reported in writing that they had a positive experience in using Ascend.

About The Ascend Math Solution

The Ascend Math Solution offers targeted intervention to maximize student achievement in mathematics. This technology-based program includes a comprehensive approach to math intervention, instruction, and assessment, all focused on delivering individualized, differentiated instruction. The Ascend Math Solution fully addresses state, federal, and NCLB accountability requirements and includes:

- Sophisticated diagnostics that identify instructional gaps and recommended grade levels;
- Targeted assessments that further prescribe individual instruction based on student strengths and weaknesses in math concepts and operations;
- Instruction and practice based on proven pedagogy and lessons;
- Post-instruction testing;
- Continuously adjusted learning paths based on formative assessments;
- Comprehensive formative and summative reporting by individual, class, and school-wide data sets;
- District wide reporting

Marjorie Briley, Ascend's Vice President of Business Development, notes, "Ascend addresses multiple learning modalities by delivering video instruction, student-centered concept explorations, interactive practice with immediate feedback and opportunities for re-teaching, and printable resources. We offer a fully automated solution, to reduce the demands on

teachers' time. And our approach supports improved math achievement regardless of students' reading levels, so we are able to provide important support for ESE, ESOL and other students with special needs, thanks to the program's video, audio, and multimedia components." According to Briley, schools and districts are currently using The Ascend Math Solution to bridge critical gaps in math achievement. Study plans align by grade level to National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards and state standards. Instruction is delivered in a logical math sequence and students can progress at their own pace, tracking their own progress and success. The Ascend Math Solution is currently in hundreds of schools and districts serving tens of thousands of students throughout the United States and Canada. Ascend Education will be exhibiting at NSBA's T+L Conference in Seattle (booth number 322) at the end of October 2008. An online interactive demo of the program and additional information are available at www.ascendedu.com.

About Ascend Education

Ascend Education is a Summit Interactive company. Summit Interactive is an established leader in K-12 mathematics intervention. Established in 1987, the company's solutions are now used by more than 5,000 schools and universities and are widely supported by math educators in secondary and adult learning environments. The company's programs are based on scientific research and are recognized for their abilities to measurably improve students' comprehension and performance in math.