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**Statement on Reading First Implementation
by
AAP President/CEO Patricia S. Schroeder**

“The School Division of the Association of American Publishers (AAP) welcomes the U.S. Department of Education’s recent review of the implementation of Reading First grants. (ED-OIG/I13-F0017.) We believe the Inspector General’s report and recommendations will go a long way in correcting a number of problems with Reading First, which is designed to deliver highly effective research-based reading programs into American classrooms.

“Over the past four years, AAP has expressed concern that review and evaluation of reading programs as part of Reading First lacked transparency and fairness. We believe the process failed to provide schools and school districts with flexibility in choosing from a variety of instructional programs. We’re very encouraged that Secretary Spellings has embraced all of the IG’s recommendations for improvement.

“The publishing industry now has a good understanding of what Congress and the Department of Education expect of us through the Reading First program. AAP urges the U.S. Department of Education to quickly implement the audit’s recommendations and to follow the Department of Education Organization Act (DEOA), which prohibits Department officials from exercising any direction, supervision, or control over the curriculum of program of instruction of any educational institution, school, or school system. (DEOA §3403(b).) In doing so, we believe that the real, positive potential of Reading First can be realized.”

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About the AAP School Division: The AAP School Division represents all the major U.S. publishers of textbooks and instructional materials. Members of the AAP School Division are the nation’s leading developers of educational materials, technology-based curricula, and assessments. As knowledge leaders in education, School Division members create instructional solutions that help students, teachers, and schools succeed. Our mission is to help improve the academic achievement of all students by designing and delivering high-quality instructional content in a variety of media.

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