

## Helping Students Improve State Assessment Test Scores

(NAPS)—A growing number of states are turning to standardized assessment tests as a means of measuring the quality of their schools. However, students often find such tests intimidating, raising concerns among both parents and teachers.

OPTIMUM®, a family of interactive educational software, offers these tips to students to help prepare for exams.

**1. Come prepared.** Make sure you've had a good night's sleep and eaten a healthy breakfast.

**2. Do the easy questions first.** You earn just as many points for easy questions as you do for the hard ones.

**3. Guess smart.** If you can rule out one or more wrong answer choices for a multiple-choice question your chances of determining the right answer improve.

**4. Get to the point.** When taking an essay test, give the major points first and details last.

**5. Check your answers.** Make sure you have answered all the questions. Proofread your writing for spelling, grammar and punctuation. Check your math answers for careless mistakes.

**6. Build confidence and remove test mystery by practicing with an interactive CD-ROM.**

OPTIMUM's family of interactive software products has been designed to prepare students for state-mandated assessment tests.



**Preparing for assessment tests offers multiple benefits for students.**

With questions written by teachers and tested by students, test-takers can receive immediate feedback on each question or choose to be graded upon completion of each content area. The tests on each CD-ROM help students sharpen their critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

Features of the software include: computer-graded multiple-choice questions addressing each outcome area; model answers for writing section and short-answer/extended-answer questions; a tutorial section which explains answers with voice and on-screen text; and overall score summary and sub-grading by content area.

Versions of OPTIMUM are available for Ohio, Illinois and New Jersey, with other states coming soon. For more test taking tips or product information, call (888) 281-5000 or visit [www.optimumtest.com](http://www.optimumtest.com).