



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Statement from CTB/McGraw-Hill Regarding ISTEP+ Online Testing**

**INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — April 30, 2013** — Over the last two days, students taking the ISTEP+ online assessment have experienced system interruptions, which have twice led the Indiana Department of Education to temporarily suspend testing. We regret the impact on Indiana schools and students and are making changes to correct the situation, so that ISTEP+ online testing will be ready to resume on Wednesday, May 1. We sincerely apologize to Indiana students, parents, teachers and Superintendent Ritz for this unfortunate situation.

Prior to the start of this year's testing, CTB conducted performance and load testing on our systems to simulate live school assessment scenarios. However, our simulations did not fully anticipate the patterns of live student testing, and as a result, our system configuration experienced service interruptions that impacted the testing process. We have adjusted the system settings and increased hardware to improve performance, and we are working with the Indiana Department of Education to consider test schedule changes to allow adequate time for the assessments.

While students affected by the interruption will be able to resume testing where they left off and no data has been lost, we understand just how disruptive and frustrating these interruptions have been. The interruptions are not acceptable to the students and educators of Indiana or to CTB/McGraw-Hill. We have worked with the schools in Indiana for many years and value our relationships with them. We sincerely regret the inconvenience we have caused in these first two days of testing.

We are doing everything possible to correct the issues immediately so that ISTEP+ testing will continue successfully through the remainder of the assessment window.

**About CTB/McGraw-Hill**

CTB/McGraw-Hill, a division of McGraw-Hill Education, has an 85-year record of innovation and excellence in assessment, and serves more than 18 million students in all 50 states and in 49 countries. One of the first American publishers to introduce objective, standardized achievement tests to schools, today CTB/McGraw-Hill is a leader in testing with recognized products for online interim and formative, adult, and language proficiency assessment. Dedicated to advancing the use of student performance data to inform instructional decision making, CTB/McGraw-Hill's innovation continues today with technologies that include Web-based assessment and reporting, student response device software, and artificial intelligence for automated scoring of student essays. For more information, visit [CTB.com/AboutUs](http://CTB.com/AboutUs).

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