



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press contact: Andrea Reibel, office 212-796-2207, cell 917-653-2746, areibel@wgen.net

Texas Schools Stay on Cutting Edge of Technology with Thousands of palmOne Handheld Computers for Administration, Assessment and Curriculum

MILPITAS, Calif., May 24, 2004 -- With thousands of handheld computers in K-12 schools, Texas continues its cutting-edge implementation of technology in education, and serves as an icon to other states, palmOne, Inc. (Nasdaq: PLMO) said today.

“As an early adopter of computer technology in education, Texas is keenly aware of its benefits to teaching, learning and administration,” said Mike Lorion, vice president of vertical markets at palmOne. “Its schools were among the first to use handhelds in large school districts, and today it continues to break new ground using handhelds for reading assessment in schools throughout the state.”

Some 900 schools are using a handheld-to-web version of the state-recommended Texas Primary Reading Inventory (TPRI), an assessment tool used by classroom teachers to obtain an accurate picture of the reading development of students in kindergarten through second grade. The handheld version, mCLASS(TM):TPRI(R), was developed by Wireless Generation, a leading provider of handheld software for K-12 observational assessment, in collaboration with the Texas Education Agency; the University of Texas Center for Academic and Reading Skills; and the Texas Institute for Measurement, Evaluation and Statistics. Performing a HotSync(R) operation moves all of the progress data to a secure website where teachers and administrators can view and analyze reports, and find instructional planning tools for translating data into appropriate teaching strategies.

Some of the state’s largest independent school districts (ISD) have set new standards for the use of the mobile TPRI; others are aggressively moving handhelds into teaching, learning and administration. Here’s a look at two.

San Antonio ISD Uses Mobile TPRI, Launches Administrator Academy

“mCLASS, the handheld version of TPRI, is among the most important tools for teachers and learning specialists, especially in the early grades,” said Miguel Guhlin, director of instructional technology for San Antonio ISD.

With more than 900 palmOne(TM) handhelds used to administer the handheld-to-web software, mCLASS:TPRI is now used in 64 of the district’s 94 schools.

“Paper is not an option,” said Guhlin. “In the beginning, some teachers didn’t want to change, but after training they found out how easy it is to administer the test and how much time it saves. Now, no one is complaining.”

The biggest benefit, according to Guhlin, is immediate feedback. With mCLASS:TPRI, teachers, reading specialists, campus instructional coordinators and administrators get valuable information about students

immediately. They use it to pinpoint strengths and weaknesses, spot trends, direct instruction and aggregate data for reports.

The district also is fine-tuning its professional development program using Tungsten(TM) C handhelds from palmOne with built-in 802.11 (or Wi-Fi) capabilities, which are central to Guhlin's long-term vision.(1)

My goal is to have wireless on all campuses in three years," he said. "We want to use mobile wireless carts and begin to use the handhelds in other areas of the curriculum."

The first wireless handhelds are targeted toward administrators through the district's new Data Driven Administrator Academy. The pilot program is aimed at assistant principals who conduct teacher appraisals and work with student data. Using ePrincipal(TM) from Media-X Systems, they have instant access to attendance, grades, schedules and demographics. The district also uses mVal(TM) to help complete criteria-based performance appraisals of staff. eWalk(TM) is used to quickly design walk-through templates and collect information on the handhelds. The wireless connection lets them keep in touch with their offices and communicate with colleagues using Outlook email.(2)

MEDIA CONTACT:

Kathleen Dixon

Dixon Communications for palmOne, Inc.

408.871.7765

kathleen@kdixon.com