



A Non-Profit Organization
Dedicated to the
Education of Youth

For Release Oct. 19, 2004

Source: JES & Co.
Contact: Nevin Lambert
NevinL@JesAndCo.Org
520-881-3317

JES & Co. Announces Free Version of Popular Resource Locator Software

New version of the Academic Standards and Assessment System free for non-commercial education use to include academic standards and access to education resources

Tucson – October 19, 2004 - Tucson-based non-profit [JES & Co.](http://www.jesandco.org) announced today that a special updated version of the popular Academic Standards and Assessment System, or ASAS, will be available for free downloading by schools and districts for non-commercial educational use. The popular tool set includes a database of academic achievement standards, tools for aligning education resources and assessment items to them, and easy to use search and retrieval features that give teachers a way to look for classroom materials according to their own state's education standards and benchmarks.

"We hope schools and districts will take advantage of the free tools to organize and align their own resources such as lesson plans and tests to state learning standards," declared Nevin Lambert, JES & Co.'s director of research and development. "Finding high quality resources that support state curricular objectives in subjects such as reading, math and science and then making sure they are aligned to standards is painstaking and time consuming," he continued. "The ASAS will give educators an easy way to organize – and share – their work."

Enterprise versions of the ASAS have already been successfully integrated in several state education portals and commercial learning content management systems. Initial funding for ASAS development came from the Education Commission of the States and Intel, Inc., and continued to grow as states and districts contributed ideas and testing for the project through JES & Co.'s Managed Learning System® research and development program. The ASAS and related web services components currently support a variety of applications serving today's education technology landscape.

The ASAS now includes access to over 35,000 high quality resources from the Department of Education-sponsored Gateway to Education Materials as well as a growing number of items contributed by both commercial and non-commercial sources. Districts can search for and retrieve any of these resources, organize materials of their own, and easily align them according to local or state needs. Most importantly, according to Lambert, the classification and alignment information can be easily shared with others, making the resources even more valuable.

The ASAS also serves as a prototype for the Achievement Standards Network (ASN) now under development for the National Science Digital Library (NSDL). The NSDL:ASN project, a joint

240 N Stone Ave
Tucson, AZ 85701
Voice: 520.881.3317 Fax: 520.881.3047
<http://www.jesandco.org>
Mailto: info@jesandco.org

collaboration of the Information School at the University of Washington, JES & Co., and Align to Achieve, Inc., is funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Details of the ASAS download program for schools and districts will be announced at the upcoming State Education Technology Directors Association (SETDA) National Leadership Institute Curriculum Showcase on November 15th in Arlington, Virginia.

For more information, see <http://www.jesandco.org>.

#