



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ESP Solutions Group and eScholar Receive Statewide Contract from Missouri**

### ***New Student Identifier System Will Allow Missouri Education Officials to Improve Data Analysis for NCLB***

AUSTIN, TEXAS (May 1, 2005) – ESP Solutions Group, the leader in K-12 education data systems, today announced the awarding of a contract from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to build a statewide student identifier and locator system. Unique student identifiers and locator systems are considered to be critical components of a states' efforts to meet their accountability and data reporting requirements and those of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

Partnering with eScholar, LLC, provider of the leading unique identifier technology in K-12 education, this contract solidifies the ESP-eScholar team as the premier identifier and locator solution for state education agencies.

Student identifier and locator systems are used by state education agencies to identify each student so that the state can follow enrollment, test scores, and other factors as a student matriculates. The identifiers also help track student mobility, facilitating easier transfer of records as students migrate from school to school within a district or across the state.

"In this era of increased accountability, a student identifier system is essential to any comprehensive statewide data collection system," said Dr. Bert Schulte, Deputy Commissioner of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Several state education agencies across the country are adding or upgrading their unique identifier systems to improve their overall understanding of the data they capture.

"Establishing a student identifier and locator system will aid Missouri's efforts to provide teachers, administrators, and policy-makers with needed information," said Dr. Schulte, "We believe that establishing a student ID and locator system is necessary to meet the reporting requirements of NCLB.

"We are very pleased to be working with ESP Solutions Group and eScholar. This team brings successful experience and strong referrals from other states," added Dr. Schulte. "We are looking forward to working with their teams."

#### **About ESP Solutions Group**

ESP Solutions Group provides its education agency clients with extraordinary insight into K-12 data systems and psychometrics. Its team is comprised of industry experts who pioneered the concept of "data-driven decision-making" in the 1970's and now help optimize the management of data by state and local education agencies.

ESP personnel have advised all 52 state education agencies as well as the U.S. Department of Education on the practice of K-12 school data management. The firm's management team is regarded as leading experts in understanding the data and technology implications of NCLB (the No Child Left Behind Act), PBDMI (Performance Based Data Management Initiative), EDEN (Education Data Exchange Network), and SIF (the Schools Interoperability Framework).

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