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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maryland Names *The Creative Curriculum*® a State-Recommended Preschool Curriculum

Washington, July 5—Teaching Strategies, Inc. announced today that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has named *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* a state-recommended preschool curriculum for early childhood programs. The decision came after an intense review of early childhood curricula by the MSDE as part of the Judith P. Hoyer Early Childhood Curriculum Project. "Maryland has an extremely rigorous review process to determine the quality and effectiveness of early childhood curricula," said Grant Davies, CEO of Teaching Strategies. "We applaud the Maryland State Department of Education for providing this valuable guidance to early childhood programs and are very proud to be a recommended curriculum in the state."

The MSDE evaluation committee thoroughly reviewed *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* and provided a series of findings to justify the state recommendation. The committee found that *The Creative Curriculum*:

- Is developmentally appropriate for 3- and 4-year-old children;
- Encourages an open and individual approach to each child's learning;
- Is accompanied by a well-organized assessment instrument; and
- Contains materials that meet state content standards and indicators.

The Maryland curriculum project was initiated to provide resources and guidance to early childhood programs to help them find curricula that align with the Voluntary State Curriculum, Maryland's prekindergarten curriculum framework. "Quality early childhood programs have always worked with curricular resources and often, early childhood providers from the non-public sector ask the Department which curricula to use with 3- and 4-year-olds," Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools, said in a press release last month. "We are very excited about this effort to provide guidance to child care and other early childhood programs about the selected preschool curricula."

The Creative Curriculum is a scientifically based, comprehensive curriculum that translates research and theory from the field of early childhood education into a practical, easy-to-understand approach to working with children and their families. It is part of an early childhood education system that includes curriculum, assessment, professional development, and evaluation. Across the United States, elements of *The Creative Curriculum* System are used in whole or in part to prepare

more than a million young children for success in kindergarten and beyond. Teaching Strategies materials are used in every state, by all branches of the military, and in thousands of school-based and faith-based early childhood programs nationwide. *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* is also used by more than half of the Head Start teachers across the country.

“We are so excited to be part of the Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Program,” said Diane Trister Dodge, president and founder of Teaching Strategies. “It is a great honor to contribute to the Maryland education community, and we welcome the opportunity to support Maryland early childhood teachers in meeting the needs of children and families.”

Teaching Strategies, Inc., is a woman-owned company committed to making a difference in the lives of young children by providing scientifically based educational materials to preschool programs nationwide. Believing that our country's future depends on our ability to nurture the optimal growth of every child, the company's mission is to enhance the quality of early childhood programs by offering practical, innovative, and developmentally appropriate curriculum materials, training services and materials, and parenting resources. Teaching Strategies materials are used in thousands of Head Start, child care, public school, and other preschool programs throughout the country, including programs run by all branches of the military and Department of Defense schools worldwide.