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How One Profession is Doing its Part to Improve Math Performance Among U.S. Middle School Students

Expect the Unexpected with Math: Shake, Rattle, & Roll

SCHAUMBURG, IL – October 23, 2006 – The Actuarial Foundation and Scholastic, the global children's publishing, education and media company, announced today that they are providing a free supplemental math program for middle school teachers nationwide designed to build students' math skills while incorporating and applying actuaries' natural mathematics expertise in real world situations, namely natural disasters.

Math skills are increasingly important for young people. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, computer and mathematical science occupations are projected to grow fastest among the professional groups by 2014. *Expected the Unexpected with Math: Shake, Rattle, & Roll* supports our efforts to open students' minds to the practical power of mathematics. Math homework can't compete with MTV, iPods, video games and other outside activities, but *Shake, Rattle, & Roll* uses real-life examples to make math more engaging for 7th and 8th graders.

Using a variety of mathematics skills common to the actuarial field, lessons will teach students to use scatterplots for data analysis, histograms to analyze the frequency of events, probability and other functions as they are applied in determining the financial impact of randomly occurring events like flood and earthquakes, and the calculation of property loss. Besides building practical skills in all students, we hope to expose students who are especially proficient in and enjoy higher level mathematics to the actuarial profession.

Lessons meet **NCTM Standards** covering statistical methods to analyze data, applying basic concepts of probability, algebra, number and operations, problem solving, reasoning and proof, and making estimations.

A downloadable copy of the *Shake, Rattle & Roll* materials are available from Scholastic at:
www.scholastic.com/shakerattleroll

To view additional math programs available or for information on applying for an *Advancing Student Achievement* math grant contact The Actuarial Foundation at:
<http://www.actuarialfoundation.org/grant/index.html>

About The Actuarial Foundation

The Actuarial Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, was established in 1994 to help facilitate and broaden the profession's contribution to society. The Foundation explores innovative ways to apply actuarial skills in the public interest and brings together partnerships of individuals and organizations to address social problems in creative ways. The Actuarial Foundation's mission is to develop, fund and executive education programs that serve the public by harnessing the talents of actuaries.

About Scholastic (NMS:SCHL) Scholastic is the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books and a leader in educational technology. Scholastic creates quality educational and entertaining materials and products for use in school and at home, including children's books, magazines, technology-based products, teacher materials, television programming, film, videos and toys. The company distributes its products and services through a variety of channels, including proprietary school-based book clubs, school-based book fairs, school-based and direct-to-home continuity programs; retail stores, schools, libraries and television networks; and the company's Internet site, www.scholastic.com.