



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2011-070

TO: School District Superintendents
Principals
Curriculum Coordinators

FROM: Bernie Schnorenberg, Math Content Specialist
Standards and Assessment Division

DATE: May 16, 2011

SUBJECT: PAWS Item, Data, and Bias Review Projects

SEEKING PARTICIPANTS

The Wyoming Department of Education is currently compiling a list of potential participants for the 2011 PAWS Item, Bias, and Data Review Committees. Before sending out formal invitations, we would like to provide individuals with an opportunity to learn what each of these important upcoming projects entails. **Please forward this information to educators in your district** who may be interested in participating.

PAWS Item Review – Cheyenne - July 12-13, 2011

Item Review is the process of examining newly developed PAWS items prior to being field tested. Teams of teachers will work with personnel from Pearson to examine the overall technical quality of items, such as language clarity, readability, plausibility of options, parallel structure, and formatting of response options, significance, and suitability of subject content, veracity of the correct answer, proper level of difficulty, and alignment to the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards and PAWS Assessment Descriptions. All of the feedback generated by Wyoming teachers will be utilized to make final decisions on which items to accept, and which revisions to incorporate into the proposed field test items.

PAWS Bias Review – Cheyenne - July 13, 2011

Once potential PAWS field test items have been reviewed for technical quality during Item Review, Wyoming educators will have the opportunity to evaluate these same items for potential bias and/or sensitivity of subject content against various demographic subgroups. With regard to fairness and content, reviewers will suggest the revision or deletion of items as they deem necessary. Any items that survive this rigorous examination become part of the field test item pool.

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PAWS Data Review – Laramie - July 26-27, 2011

During Data Review, educators will evaluate the performance of recent field test items to determine the final selection of items for future operational assessments. Item performance will be evaluated based on the following:

- Level of difficulty
- Evidence of fairness across subgroups
- Ability to draw distinctions between students of differing overall ability levels
- Distribution of responses to determine the overall effectiveness of item distractors

Suggestions made by Wyoming educators will provide a basis for eliminating items that do not function properly.

Pearson will provide participants with the following:

- Breakfast, lunch, and per diem for dinner for each day of the review
- Direct pay of hotel costs
- Mileage reimbursement
- A \$250.00 stipend for each day of the review

Educators interested in participating should complete our informational survey at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22CCV3AQX7Y/>, or indicate their interest by visiting the state web site at http://edu.wyoming.gov/Programs/statewide_assessment_system/paws.aspx by May 27, 2011. Participants must be present for each day the committee will be meeting. Participating in only one day is not an option.

Please Note:

At this point in the planning process, the WDE is only compiling a list of **potential** participants. Educators who indicate their interest will be added to our contact list; however, it will not guarantee a formal invitation to participate. Formal invitations will be sent once we've had an opportunity to evaluate our level of need for each project, the number of interested participants available to fill that need, and our ability to select individuals to ensure balanced representation from schools and districts across the state.

Interested individuals must complete the informational survey or indicate their interest on the state web site no later than May 27, 2011.

For questions, please contact Bernie Schnorenberg at bschno@educ.state.wy.us.

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