



Wyoming Department of Education

Cindy Hill, Superintendent of Public Instruction

2300 Capitol Avenue, 2nd Floor Hathaway

Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone: 307-721-1900 Fax: 307-721-1901 Website: edu.wyoming.gov

MEMORANDUM NO. 2011-078

TO: School District Superintendents
Special Education Directors
Principals
Curriculum Coordinators
Directors of Private Residential Treatment Facilities
Title I Directors
Title III Directors

FROM: Charlene Turner, Director of Alternate Assessment
Standards and Assessment Division

DATE: May 23, 2011

SUBJECT: PAWS-ALT Item, Bias and Data Reviews

IMPORTANT – TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Item, Bias & Data Reviews for the PAWS-ALT are scheduled to take place in Casper, Wyoming, on August 9 – 11, 2011. The purpose of these reviews is to obtain input from special education teachers, general education teachers, and teachers of English Learners on reading, writing, mathematics, and science items. Before sending out formal invitations, we would like to provide individuals with an opportunity to express an interest in these reviews. Please forward this information to educators in your district who may be interested in attending.

PAWS-ALT Item Review: August 9, 2011, Casper, Wyoming

Item Review is the process of examining newly developed PAWS-ALT items prior to being field tested. Teams of special and general education teachers will work with personnel from Questar Assessment, Inc. to examine the overall technical quality of reading, mathematics, and science items to be field tested on the 2012 PAWS-ALT. The academic content knowledge and expertise held by educators are required in order to fully evaluate these items.

PAWS-ALT Bias and Sensitivity Review: August 10, 2011, Casper, Wyoming

Following the 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 provide recommendations on the revision or deletion of items. In addition to special and general education teachers, educators who have experience in working with English Learners are sought.

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PAWS-ALT Data Review: August 11, 2011, Casper, Wyoming

During Data Review, educators will evaluate the performance of 2011 field test items to provide recommendations on the final selection of items for future operational assessments.

The collective feedback of all participants in these reviews provides valuable consultative information back to the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) and the testing vendor, Questar Assessment, Inc. It is intended that participants will be demographically representative of educators across Wyoming.

Participants will receive:

- Breakfast, lunch and a per diem for dinner for each day of the review;
 - Direct pay of hotel costs;
 - Mileage reimbursement for those persons traveling to Casper;
 - A stipend of \$250 for each day of the review.
- *Please note that if you are a resident of Casper, lodging, mileage reimbursement and a dinner per diem will not be provided.

If you have an interest in attending one, two or three of these reviews, please complete the interest/informational survey on Zoomerang at the following link:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22CDX29DNVA/>

Please note, that at this point in the planning process, the WDE is only compiling a list of **potential** participants. Educators who indicate an interest will be added to our contact lists. However, it will not guarantee a formal invitation to participate. Formal invitations will be sent once we have had the opportunity to evaluate our level of need for each review, 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 by **Friday, June 3, 2011**. Thank you for disseminating this information to potential participants. Should you have any questions regarding these meetings, please do not hesitate to contact Charlene Turner at cturne@educ.state.wy.us or phone at 307-721-1925.

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