



Wyoming Department of Education

Cindy Hill, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor, 2300 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne WY 82002-0050

Phone: 307-777-7675 Fax: 307-777-6234 Website: edu.wyoming.gov

MEMORANDUM NO. 2012-086

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

FROM: Tammy Schroeder, Test Development Program Manager
Assessment Division

DATE: May 14, 2012

SUBJECT: PAWS-ALT Item, Bias and Data Reviews

IMPORTANT TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) wants to announce the schedule for the PAWS-ALT Item, Bias & Data Reviews. The purpose of these reviews is to obtain input from special education teachers, general education teachers, and teachers of English Learners on reading, 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: July 30 - August 2, 2012, Cheyenne, 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 Educational Testing Service (ETS) to examine the overall technical quality of reading, mathematics, and science items to be field tested on the 2013 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 3, 2012, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Following the Item Review, Wyoming educators will have the opportunity to evaluate these same items with ETS 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.

School District Superintendents
Special Education Directors
School Principals
Curriculum Coordinators
Directors of Private Residential Treatment Facilities
Title I Directors
District Test Coordinators & Building Test Coordinators
Memo No. 2012-086
May 14, 2012
Page 2

PAWS-ALT Data Review: July 24, 2012, Casper, Wyoming

During Data Review, educators will evaluate the performance of 2012 field test items to provide recommendations on the final selection of items for future operational assessments. This activity will take place with the assistance of Questar Assessment, Inc.

The collective feedback of all participants in these reviews provides valuable consultative information back to the WDE and the testing vendors. It is intended that participants will be demographically representative of educators across Wyoming.

Participants for each of these meetings 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 away from their home city;
- A stipend of \$250 for each day of the review.

*Please note that if you are a resident of any of these locations, 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 survey on Zoomerang to express your interest in participating at these events at the following link: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22FPPVEYCC7>

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 survey by **Friday, June 8, 2012**. Thank you for disseminating this information to potential participants. If you have any questions, please contact Jude Serrano at 307-777-8568 or at jude.serrano@wyo.gov.

TS:js