

March 13, 2015

Dear Colleague:

You are invited to apply for consideration to participate in upcoming teacher committee workshops for the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE). As a workshop panel member you will be joined by educators from around the state who will review test questions and test data and make suggestions that will guide the development of the state assessments.

**Submission of this application does not constitute appointment as a panelist.** Your application will be evaluated by the Wyoming Department of Education to determine if you meet the program's needs. If your application is approved, your name will be added to our contact list of potential participants. Formal invitations will be sent out by May 1, 2015 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. **This committee work is only open to those teachers currently employed in Wyoming school districts.**

### Teacher Committee Workshops

➤ **Data Review – PAWS**

**Date: July 13, 2015**

**Location: Buffalo Bill Village Resort, Cody, WY**

During Data Review, educators evaluate the performance of items that have been recently field-tested. Item performance will be evaluated based on level of difficulty, evidence of fairness across subgroups, ability to draw distinctions between students of differing overall ability levels, and distribution of responses to determine the overall effectiveness of item distracters. Suggestions made by Wyoming educators will provide a basis for eliminating items that do not function properly.

➤ **Item Review – PAWS**

**Date: July 14-16, 2015 - Reading and Math Item Review**

**July 14-15, 2015 - Science Item Review**

**Location: Buffalo Bill Village Resort, Cody, WY**

Item Review is the process of examining newly developed test questions, also called items, prior to the items being field-tested. Teams of teachers will work with personnel from Educational Testing Service (ETS) and WDE to examine the quality of reading, mathematics, and science items to be field tested on the 2015 assessments. Review and evaluation of these items requires the academic content knowledge and expertise of educators.

➤ **Bias and Sensitivity Review – PAWS**

**Date: July 15-16, 2015**

**Location: Buffalo Bill Village Resort, Cody, WY**

Wyoming educators will have the opportunity to work with ETS to evaluate items for fairness and sensitivity prior to being field tested on the 2015 assessments. This panel will focus on reviewing items for potential bias against, and/or sensitivity of subject to, various demographic subgroups. Since the bias and sensitivity review is not a review of the item subject matter content, panelists will be expected to review items from a variety of subject areas and grades. Regional and demographic sub-group representation is especially important for this panel, including educators who work with special education students

For each of the above meetings, ETS will provide pre-paid hotel accommodations for those who need them. In addition, participants will be reimbursed for mileage and meals outside those provided during the meetings. Participants will also receive a \$250.00 per diem stipend for all meetings.

ETS will send separate official invitation letters for each specific meeting. If you are interested in applying to participate, please fill out and submit an application by clicking on the following link:

[http://Wyoming2015.formstack.com/forms/2015\\_wy\\_statewide\\_assessments\\_application](http://Wyoming2015.formstack.com/forms/2015_wy_statewide_assessments_application)

Please contact Ruth Sieger if you have any questions or need further information.

- E-mail: [rsieger@ets.org](mailto:rsieger@ets.org)

- Telephone: 609-683-2241
- Fax: 609-683-2300
- Mail: ETS, Rosedale Road, MS 33-L, Princeton, NJ 08541

Thank you for your support of the Wyoming Statewide Assessment Program.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Sieger