



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Connecticut Educators

FROM: Joseph Di Garbo, Teacher Involvement Coordinator for Connecticut

DATE: November 25, 2013

SUBJECT: Smarter Balanced Alignment Study Educator Opportunity

Dear Connecticut Educators:

On behalf of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced), the Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO), is conducting a study to examine the alignment between the Smarter Balanced assessments and the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

Smarter Balanced is developing an assessment system for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics that is aligned to the CCSS. Smarter Balanced developed content specifications with claims and assessment targets for ELA and mathematics at each grade level directly derived from the CCSS. During the fall of 2013, Smarter Balanced will develop approximately 20,000 ELA and mathematics items and performance tasks that are based on the Smarter Balanced claims and assessment targets for Grades 3–8 and high school. A computer-adaptive test will be developed from the item and performance task pools.

HumRRO is recruiting educators to participate in one 2-day workshop. The workshops will be held on-site in Charlotte, NC or Los Angeles, CA, with the potential for take-home work to be completed within 21 calendar days after the workshop. The alignment study workshop will occur in March 2014. Each reviewer will attend only one workshop.

HumRRO seeks educators who meet the qualifications outlined below to serve as alignment reviewers beginning in March 2014:

- Have **not** participated in previous Smarter Balanced item development or review activities.
- Currently certified to teach ELA/literacy and/or mathematics in a K-12 public school or qualified to teach ELA/literacy and/or mathematics in an institution of higher education.
- Currently teaching in a Connecticut public school or currently employed by a public school district or state education entity, including higher education.
- Taught ELA/literacy and/or mathematics in Grades 3 through 8 and/or high school within the past 3 years; worked in a classroom content support role such as a literacy or mathematics coach, district or state content specialist, etc.; or taught in an institution of higher education in developmental and/or entry-level courses in English, composition, mathematics, statistics or a related discipline within the past 3 years.
- Previously reviewed the Common Core State Standards for the content area in which they are interested in reviewing items and/or performance tasks.

- Have availability to travel with a laptop (preferred but not required) with access to internet, Microsoft Word, and Excel. Microsoft Excel should be at minimum version 2003; version 2010 preferred.
- Have previous alignment review experience (preferred but not required).

Alignment reviews provide evidence regarding the validity of an assessment. The alignment activities conducted for this study, which will take place in March 2014, focus on the validity of the Smarter Balanced ELA/literacy and mathematics summative assessments, specifically the relationships among the Smarter Balanced content specifications, task models, and item and performance task pools. Example activities reviewers will be asked to complete include:

- Identifying the depth of knowledge (DOK) associated with a Smarter Balanced item, performance task, task model, claim and assessment target, and CCSS.
- Determining the content match between (a) items or performance tasks and assessment targets, (b) task models and assessment targets, and (c) assessment targets and CCSS.

Online Application:

Interested candidates can apply by accessing the [online application](#) to provide contact information, experience, and a statement of interest. Please complete the online application by Friday, December 6, 2013. A limited number of qualified educators from Connecticut will be selected to participate.

HumRRO will confirm educators to serve in the alignment workshop from across all Smarter Balanced Governing States. The distribution of educators will represent a balance of geographic regions, grade levels, years of experience, and other demographic data.

HumRRO will provide lodging, travel, and meal costs. Additional applicable reimbursements to each confirmed participant may include parking and a stipend or substitute pay. Additional travel and contract information will need to be completed for those educators confirmed.

For additional information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education Web site (www.ct.gov/sde/SmarterBalanced) or contact me at 860-713-6863 or by e-mail at Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov.