



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Connecticut Educators

**FROM:** Joseph Di Garbo, Connecticut's Teacher Involvement Coordinator

**DATE:** March 3, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Smarter Balanced Range Finding Opportunity

On behalf of the Connecticut State Department of Education and the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced), CTB/McGraw-Hill invites educators who meet the qualifications outlined below to serve as panelists for the Field Test Range Finding activities beginning in May 2014.

- Currently certified to teach English language arts/literacy (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, or currently employed or recently retired from a Connecticut college or university.
- Taught ELA/literacy and/or mathematics in Grades 3 through 8 and/or high school within the past three years; have worked in a classroom content support role such as a literacy or mathematics coach, district or state content specialist, etc.; have taught developmental and/or entry-level courses in English, composition, mathematics, statistics or a related discipline at an institution of higher education within the past three years.
- Previously reviewed the Common Core State Standards for the content area in which they are interested in participating in Range Finding activities.
- Previous Range Finding experience (preferred but not required).

Smarter Balanced is developing an assessment system for mathematics and ELA/literacy that is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. The development involves educators, researchers, policymakers, and community groups in a transparent consensus-driven process to help all students strive for success in a global economy.

This spring, Smarter Balanced will administer a Field Test of the assessment system to a sample of schools across the country. Through this Field Test, Smarter Balanced will gather information about the performance of assessment items and the test delivery system under real world conditions.

CTB/McGraw-Hill is recruiting educators to participate in Range Finding Committees to review student responses, recommend anchor papers, and validate rubrics from the Field Test. The committees will meet virtually for each Range Finding activity. The Range Finding Committee work will take place virtually between May 12 and May 22. Educators will be expected to complete training via webinars, participate in group conference calls with other educators to

discuss scoring expectations, and review responses to define the anchors and rationale for scoring. These tasks will be distributed over the course of nine days.

Range Finding supports the consistency and validity of scoring for the assessment. Specifically, Range Finding focuses on performance tasks for mathematics and ELA/literacy and includes:

- The review of student responses against item rubrics,
- The validation of rubric effectiveness, and
- The selection of anchor papers used by handscoring for the larger population of responses.

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 Tuesday, March 11, 2014. A limited number of qualified educators from Connecticut will be selected to participate.

CTB/McGraw-Hill will confirm educators to serve on the Range Finding Committees from across all Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Governing States. The distribution of educators will represent a balance of geographic regions, grade levels, years of experience, and other demographic data.

CTB will provide applicable reimbursements to each confirmed participant which may include substitute reimbursement or honorarium. Additional contract information will need to be completed for those educators confirmed.

For additional information and answers to frequently asked questions, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education Web site ([www.ct.gov/sde/SmarterBalanced](http://www.ct.gov/sde/SmarterBalanced)) or contact me at 860-713-6863 or by e-mail at [Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov](mailto:Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov).