

Date: June 17, 2014
To: Colorado Educators
From: The Colorado Department of Education
RE: CMAS and CoAlt Standard Setting

Dear Colorado Educators,

This past spring, Colorado administered the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) and Colorado Alternate Assessment (CoAlt) science and social studies assessments. These assessments require the Colorado Department of Education to develop new performance level descriptors (i.e., what does proficiency mean) and new cutscores for each assessment. These new performance standards will be developed to support the interpretation of student results.

In July, approximately 128 educators will participate in a standard setting process. At standard setting, educators will review performance level descriptors, assessment items, student responses and data. The panels will make performance standards recommendations that will be presented to the State Board of Education in August. We are seeking individuals (teachers and administrators) who have expertise in:

- the concepts and skills reflected in the Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) and in student development of the concept and skills at the assessment grade levels,
- the concepts and skills reflected in the Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) and in student development of the concept and skills one grade above the assessment grade levels,
- the concepts and skills reflected in the Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) and in student development of the concept and skills one grade below the middle school assessment grade levels,
- working with students with disabilities, and
- working with English learners.

Participants will initially be selected by Pearson and will be approved by CDE. All efforts will be made to ensure that the group is balanced in terms of gender, race/ethnicity, geography and district size.

Both the CMAS and CoAlt standard setting meetings will be held at:

**Sheraton Denver West
360 Union Blvd
Lakewood, CO 80228
1-303-987-2000**

The CMAS meeting will be held on July 14-15, 2014, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. both days. A subset of educators will be asked to return on July 16th to review the recommendations across the grades.

The CoAlt meeting will be held on July 17-18, 2014, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in either of these meetings, please go to the following link:
<http://www.cvent.com/d/b4qdxk/4W>

The link will take you to a page that will ask you to provide key information about yourself to help us select representative panels. Due to a limited number of spaces available and to ensure that each committee is filled with the required number of individuals, you are asked to register as soon as possible. **Panels will be pulled no later than June 30th.**

NOTE: Completing the form does not guarantee you will be selected to participate. Panelists will be chosen to participate in the meetings based on experience and other key characteristics. You will be notified by July 1st if you have been selected.

You will be reimbursed for travel expenses to the meeting site. If you travel more than 35 miles to the meeting site, Pearson will provide hotel accommodations. Breakfast, snacks, and lunch will be provided during the meeting, and those participants staying overnight will receive a per diem for dinner. Pearson will reimburse your school for the cost of substitute teachers who cover your classes. If you will not need a substitute because your school is out of session, Pearson will pay you an honorarium of \$120.

Please feel free to contact Sara Barth with questions about participating in the workshop or completing the form:

Sara Barth, Pearson Meeting Planner
sara.barth@pearson.com

Respectfully,

Joyce Zurkowski
Executive Director of Assessment
Colorado Department of Education