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TO: WIDA CONSORTIUM SEAs
FROM: ALEX BAUER, WIDA & JUSTIN KELLY, CAL
SUBJECT: RE: WIDA ACCESS for ELLs® 2.0: Bias, Sensitivity, and Content Reviews
DATE: JANUARY 8, 2016

The WIDA Consortium and the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) are currently recruiting participants to serve on committees for the 2016 Bias and Sensitivity and Content reviews for new test items on ACCESS for ELLs® 2.0. In addition to the Bias and Sensitivity and Content reviews, there will be an opportunity for Content reviewers to participate in an Item Development Workshop to generate content for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 test items. These are two of several opportunities for educators to be directly involved in the test development process for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, the computer-delivered academic English language proficiency summative assessment for grades 1–12.

2016 Bias and Sensitivity and Content Reviews

Overview

Every year, CAL and WIDA conduct Bias and Sensitivity Reviews and Content Reviews of new ACCESS test items. The purposes of Bias and Sensitivity reviews are to ensure that test items are free of material that (1) might favor any subgroup of students over another on the basis on gender, race/ethnicity, home language religion, culture, region, or socio-economic status, and (2) might be upsetting to students. The purposes of Content Reviews are to help ensure that test item content is grade-level appropriate and factually accurate.

Who is needed?

Educators to participate in either the Bias and Sensitivity or Content reviews, not both. All participants will be required to travel to Washington, DC to participate in the two-day event and to agree to participate in 1 of 2 sessions of online reviews. All participants will need to sign a nondisclosure agreement (NDA) to ensure test security.

Bias and Sensitivity Review

Participants in the Bias and Sensitivity reviews should be educators from a variety of cultural backgrounds with experience interacting with ELLs from a range of cultural, regional, religious, linguistic, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds.

Content Review

Participants in the reviews should be educators with experience teaching ELLs and with content expertise (Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, or Science) in one of the five grade clusters: Grade 1, Grades 2-3, Grades 4-5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12.

What will I do?

Bias and Sensitivity Review

Ensure that the content of the Writing and Speaking tasks:

- does not contain any topics that students might react negatively to, and;
- does not contain any material that might favor one group of students over another, on the basis of gender, race/ethnicity, home language, religion, culture, region, or socio-economic status.

Content Review

Ensure that the content of the Writing and Speaking tasks:

- is grade-level appropriate; and
- is factually correct.

When and where?

The 2016 Bias and Sensitivity and Content reviews will occur in two phases:

1. Face-to-face training and Speaking and Writing reviews in Washington, DC, March 7-11, 2016;
2. and via online meetings March 28-April 1 and June 13-17, 2016:

Bias and Sensitivity Review (In person)

March 7-8, 2016

Washington, DC metro area

Content Review (In person)

March 9-10, 2016

Washington, DC metro area

Follow up: Online Bias, Sensitivity, and Content Reviews

We will be holding two online Bias and Sensitivity and Content reviews to examine new Listening and Reading folders. These online reviews will involve two 1-2 hour web-based meetings. You will need access to the internet and phone. We will coordinate with the group members to schedule the meetings at convenient times. If you agree to participate in the face-to-face training and review in March, you will be required to participate in at least one of the two review sessions:

Listening Review: March 28-April 1, 2016 [exact days & times tbd]

Reading Review: June 13-17, 2016 [exact days & times tbd]

Additional Exciting Opportunity!

Item Writing Training Workshop

For participants in the Content reviews, we will also hold an Item Writing Workshop on March 11, 2015. The purpose of the workshop is to train educators in item writing for future ACCESS for ELLs tests. The interactive workshop will train participants on the characteristics of successful test items and how to use item specifications to generate items for the ACCESS test. Participants will work in groups, participate in formative training activities, and practice writing test items, which will be submitted to CAL staff for review. You may be contacted for paid item writing upon successful completion of the item writing training. Training Participants will receive a payment of \$250 from the Center for Applied Linguistics for their participation.

Travel Logistics

These reviews will be conducted in the Washington, DC area. Travel costs for the participants will be reimbursed by WIDA within the State of Wisconsin reimbursement rules and regulations. Reimbursement includes airfare expenses or car mileage, lodging expenses, meal expenses, and taxis and other transportation expenses for business travel purposes.

Please distribute this message to educators in your state. If anyone is interested in participating, they need to complete the online interest form located here:

<http://alturl.com/u7fic> by no later than February 19, 2016.

Educators with questions about the reviews should email Alex Bauer (alex.bauer@wisc.edu).

Thank you for your cooperation in recruiting dedicated educators from your state to be involved in the test development process for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0. We appreciate your support!