



External Review Panels

The Dynamic Learning Maps™ Alternate Assessment Consortium is seeking educators from its partner states to review testlets (sets of 3-5 items) for the new assessments! Panelists will review items during the 2013-14 academic year.

What is Dynamic Learning Maps?

The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment Consortium is based in the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation at the University of Kansas. On behalf of its partner states, DLM is developing a next generation alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities. DLM assessments measure student mastery of content in English language arts and math based on progressions in a learning map. The assessments will primarily be delivered in the form of short testlets, or groups of 3-5 items, which are designed to be instructionally relevant and are administered throughout the year.

What is testlet review?

New assessment testlets are being written for DLM right now. All new testlets need to be reviewed by educators to make sure the items are of high quality and are ready for field testing. Items are reviewed by different panels for different purposes. In DLM, we will review for content, instructional relevance, appropriateness and accessibility for students with significant cognitive disabilities, freedom from bias, and sensitivity.

What does a panelist do?

Because we work with many states, our panels will be conducted virtually. Each panelist will be assigned groups of items to review within a certain window of time. Panelists will preview items on their own computers and will complete an online survey about each set of items. Some panelists will be invited to participate in an online discussion about items that need revision.

What would being a panelist mean for me?

1. Once selected, you will successfully complete an online training course and sign a security agreement.
2. You will be assigned batches of testlets to review and evaluate. Each batch of reviews must be completed in the allotted window (usually two weeks). There would be several batches assigned throughout the 2013-14 academic year. Each batch is projected to take 1-2 hours to review.
3. If you participate in the online discussions, you will be scheduled for one or more 90-minute meetings that will take place using Adobe Connect.
4. You will receive professional development regarding the use of evidence-centered design in assessment development, the use of essential element concept maps, and a deeper understanding of the Dynamic Learning Maps and how to use it to improve student learning.
5. Panelists will not receive monetary compensation but may be eligible for continuing education credits.

What are the requirements?

There are no minimum qualifications to volunteer as a panelist. We seek educators with a broad array of perspectives and backgrounds, although we especially seek individuals with content expertise in English language arts or math and in education and assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities. All panelists must have access to a computer that meets our computer and technical requirements.

How do I sign up?

To volunteer as a panelist, complete the survey at

https://kansasedu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9Hr3aA6OBy2AgDX no later than September 30. DLM will notify volunteers who are selected to serve no later than November 1.