



EDUCATIONAL DATA SYSTEMS

June 23, 2009

Dear California Colleague:

REVIEWERS NEEDED FOR THE CALIFORNIA ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT TEST

The California Department of Education and Educational Data Systems, the new California English Language Development Test (CELDT) contractor, are currently seeking California educators with experience and expertise in English language development to serve on two CELDT review panels: the CELDT Content Review Panel and the CELDT Bias and Sensitivity Review Panel. If you are qualified and interested, please apply by following the application instructions outlined below.

The application period is now open, and applications are due **August 16, 2009**.

Background

The purpose of the CELDT is to (a) identify students who are English learners (ELs), (b) determine the level of English language proficiency of ELs, and (c) assess the progress of ELs in acquiring English language proficiency. The CELDT assesses four domains: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. New CELDT test questions are being developed for future CELDT editions. Prior to being field-tested, the questions need to be reviewed by a Content Review Panel and a Bias and Sensitivity Review Panel.

Dates and Purposes of the Review Panels

The CELDT Content Review Panel, which will meet in Sacramento for a two-day meeting on October 15-16, 2009, will review the test questions for characteristics such as alignment with the relevant English Language Development (ELD) standards, accuracy, clarity, and difficulty. The Content Review Panel will include California teachers and postsecondary faculty with expertise in ELD and/or second language acquisition.

The CELDT Bias and Sensitivity Review Panel will meet in Sacramento for a one-day meeting on October 20, 2009, to review the test questions for potential bias and sensitivity issues, such as language, symbols, or examples that are biased or potentially offensive, inappropriate, or negative toward any group. This panel will include California teachers of English learners and other educators who represent the ethnic, gender, linguistic, geographical, and cultural diversity of California's student population.

Expenses

Approved travel expenses for the workshop will either be prepaid or reimbursed to panel members in accordance with state travel rules and rates. School districts will be reimbursed for the costs of substitute teachers (if needed). No honorarium or stipend will be paid.

Qualifications

We are seeking applications from current and retired California educators who have experience and expertise in English language development and/or experience teaching English to ELs in any of grades kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12). Qualified K-12 teachers, administrators, and EL and literacy specialists and coaches, as well as college and university educators, are encouraged to apply. The *minimum* qualifications are:

- A Bachelor's degree
- Able to attend the entire meeting
- For the Content Review Panel, expertise in language acquisition *or* experience teaching ELs in K-12 is needed.

Desirable qualifications include:

- A teaching credential authorization for English language development, specially designed academic instruction delivered in English, or content instruction delivered in the primary language (e.g., Crosscultural, Language, and Academic Development Certificate; Bilingual, Crosscultural, Language, and Academic Development Certificate)
- Specialized teaching certification in reading (e.g., Reading Certificate, Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential)
- Experience writing or reviewing test questions for standardized tests, especially tests for K-12 ELs
- For the Bias and Sensitivity Review Panel, expertise in language acquisition or experience teaching ELs in K-12

Application Instructions

You may apply for both panels, but you can only be selected for one. Those currently serving as CELDT item writers may not apply.

To apply to be a reviewer on the CELDT Content Review Panel or the CELDT Bias and Sensitivity Review Panel, complete **both** of the following steps:

1. Complete a secure online application by going to the CELDT Web site (www.celdt.org) and clicking on "Opportunities" then "Review Panels."
2. Submit a one-page resume that includes (a) your name, home address, and phone number, (b) your degrees and credentials, (c) your current and most recent previous positions, and (d) a paragraph summarizing your experience and expertise in English language development and working with ELs in any of grades K-12. Your resume can be submitted by e-mail, fax, or mail to:

CELDT Review Panel Recruitment—CSAPA
Sacramento County Office of Education
P.O. Box 269003
Sacramento, CA 95826-9003
E-mail: bcarlson@scoe.net
Fax: 916-228-2665

Applications are due **August 16, 2009**. Both parts (online application and resume) must be received by that date.

If you are a teacher, before applying, please check with your school administrator to verify that you would be able to attend the applicable meeting if selected.

Application Review and Panel Member Notification

Applicant information will be submitted to the California Department of Education for review and approval. Due to the interest in these review panels, participants will be chosen that meet specific criteria outlined above. Additional participants will be contacted as necessary. You will be notified in mid-September whether or not you have been selected; if you are selected, you will be provided more information about the panel on which you will serve and travel arrangements.

We sincerely appreciate your interest in participating in these important review opportunities. Please feel free to share this letter with anyone you believe is qualified and would be interested in serving on one of these panels.

If you have any questions about the recruitment of CELDT review panel members, please contact Bob Carlson, Sacramento County Office of Education, at 916-228-2669 or by e-mail at bcarlson@scoe.net.