



EDUCATIONAL DATA SYSTEMS

March 13, 2009

Dear California Colleague:

ITEM WRITERS NEEDED FOR THE CALIFORNIA ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT TEST

Educational Data Systems, the new California English Language Development Test (CELDT) contractor, is currently seeking California educators with experience and expertise in English language development to serve as CELDT item writers. If you are qualified and interested, I sincerely hope that you will apply. If you know of others who are qualified and might be interested, please share this information with them.

Please note that applications are due no later than Monday, April 6, 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 items are needed in all four domains and for all grade levels, kindergarten through grade 12.

Item Writer Activities and Responsibilities

All item writers will be required to attend a one-day training workshop in Sacramento on May 2, 2009, for which they will be paid \$250. Approved travel expenses for the workshop will either be prepaid or reimbursed. At the training workshop, item writers will:

- be trained on CELDT item writing in general and specifically on the domain and grade span the item writer will work on, and
- be assigned specific English Language Development standards, a domain, and a grade span for writing items.

Following the training workshop, item writers will work on their own to create and submit approximately 15-25 test items between May and July. Writers will be paid \$25 for each item that is accepted for potential use on the test.

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 kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) ELs. 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, and
- expertise in language acquisition *or* experience teaching ELs in K-12.

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 items for standardized tests, especially tests for K-12 ELs

Application Instructions

To apply to be a CELDT item writer, complete both of the following steps:

1. Complete a secure online application by going to the CELDT Web site (<http://celdt.org>), and clicking on "Opportunities" then "Item Writer."

AND

2. Submit a resume highlighting your education, experience, and expertise in English language development and working with ELs in K-12. Your resume can be submitted by e-mail, fax, or mail to:

CELDT Item Writer 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 no later than Monday, April 6, 2009. Both parts (online application and resume) must be received by that date.

Applicant information will be submitted to the California Department of Education for review and approval. You will be notified in mid-April whether or not you have been selected, and if you have, you will be provided more information about the May 2 training workshop.

Questions

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

Sincerely,



Caroline Fahmy
President

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