Montana Science Assessment: Educator Opportunities!

**Summer 2022 to Fall 2022**

**Event Date[s]: June 13, 2022**
- **Montana Science Assessment [MSA] Rubric Validation**
  
  This meeting is a review of sample student responses from field test items to ensure that the scoring logic is accurate. Discussions include recommendations on how to change the scoring logic or clarify the scoring assertion text of the item to fix any differences between scoring and student responses.

**Event Date[s]: August 1 – 3, 2022 | MSA PLD and Standard Setting**
- **MSA Performance Level Descriptors [PLD] and Standard Setting**
  
  This meeting is a review process to define the proficiency levels and cut scores with respect to the state’s content standards for the assessment. Range performance level descriptors will be reviewed for fairness and defined by the committee to determine what proficiency means in relation to student performance on the assessment. This includes review and determination of the cut scores associated with each define performance level of proficiency.

- **Alternate MSA PLD and Standard Setting**
  
  This meeting is a review process to define the proficiency levels and cut scores with respect to the state’s content standards for the assessment. Range performance level descriptors will be reviewed for fairness and defined by the committee to determine what proficiency means in relation to student performance on the assessment. This includes review and determination of the cut scores associated with each define performance level of proficiency.

- **Content Acceptance Committee (CAC): Review Content, Bias, and Fairness**
  
  The meeting will address the committee’s review and acceptance for alternate items to be field tested in the Spring of 2023. Educators will review items for inclusion in a state’s field test or operational pool— for alignment, content, and grade appropriateness. In addition to content, the committee would also review items for fairness to ensure items are free of any unnecessary barriers to the success of diverse groups of students.

**Event Date[s]: September 12, 2022**
- **MSA Data Review**
  
  This meeting is a review of field-tested items reviewed by a Rubric Validation committee. Edits were made to the scoring logic and/or scoring assertion text per committee recommendation and statistics were computed at the assertion level. The data review committee will discuss and review flagged items and assertions based on business rules. These rules are related to the difficulty of the item, the relationship between the score and the student’s overall performance on the test, response time, and statistical flags for differential item functioning.

**Event Date[s]: October 3 – 4, 2022**
- **MSA Item Writing Workshop**
  
  This workshop is designed to be a collaborative effort to develop general Montana Science Assessment phenomena for future items and item clusters. Educators are encouraged to select place-based and culturally relevant phenomena that is intended to engage and include Montana student interests and experiences. Participants will select phenomena aligned to Montana’s state-specific science content standards [or performance expectations] and work with the test vendor Cambium Assessment (CAI) to brainstorm phenomena that can be used for item writers to craft items and item clusters around. These efforts directly contribute to the CAI content team’s future item development work.

If you are interested in these opportunities, or have any questions, please contact Katie Murnion at Katie.murnion@mt.gov or (406) 444-5899.