

Dear Washington Educator:

Thank you for your interest in the Washington Educator Skills Tests—Endorsements™ (WEST–E™). On behalf of the Washington Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB), I encourage your participation in these new test development activities.

Background Information

The PESB has initiated the redevelopment of the WEST–E exams that are the statewide uniform means of assessing subject-area content knowledge for Washington's teacher endorsements. Endorsements are required for teaching certificates to demonstrate that teachers have the appropriate content knowledge for their teaching assignments. The *new* WEST–E exams will be fully aligned with Washington standards, including the teacher endorsement competencies, the Essential Academic Learning Requirements, and the Grade Level Expectations. The PESB has contracted with the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson to assist in the development and administration of these new exams.

Involvement of Washington Educators

The PESB is committed to involving exemplary educators in all aspects of the test development process. This helps us to ensure that certified teachers have the subject-area content knowledge that is important for the job of an educator in Washington public schools. The involvement of Washington public school educators and faculty who are currently teaching is crucial. Our goal is that these activities reflect the diversity of Washington's educators.

Test Development Activities

Many opportunities are available for educators to assist the PESB with test development for the WEST–E. Activities include: test framework/item review conferences, content validation surveys, pilot testing of questions, and the establishment of passing scores.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to e-mail the Committee Recruitment Group at Evaluation Systems at EvaluationSystemsCRG@nesinc.com.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,



Esther Baker
Program Director, Teacher Assessments