Science Professional Development Descriptions

Science educators in Washington are invited to participate in Science Assessment Development Workgroups to provide content and grade-level expertise throughout the process of developing state assessments.

**Ongoing Assessment Development**
Items used operationally on a state assessment have been through an iterative review process that involves numerous workgroups. For each workgroup, both new and experienced participants are chosen to represent statewide demographics.

In addition to the assessment development workgroups described below, stakeholder input is solicited in determining the item specifications and test map for each grade level, evaluating the alignment of the first tests to the new learning standards, and setting new achievement levels.

**Assessment Development Workgroup Descriptions**

**Item Cluster Writing**
Teams of 2-3 educator participants write items aligned to the Washington State 2013 K-12 Science Learning Standards (NGSS) for a science stimulus. The teams also develop rubrics designed to validly measure student understanding of the science standards.

**Content Review**
A group of five educators review the products of Item Cluster Writing to assure every stimulus, item, and rubric is scientifically accurate and gathers evidence about student mastery of the Washington State 2013 K-12 Science Learning Standards (NGSS).

**Pilot Rangefinding and Rubric Validation**

At **Pilot Rangefinding** a group of five educators review rubrics and student responses for hand-scored constructed-response field test items. The workgroup finalizes decisions about how every student answer on these items will be scored by preparing scorer-training materials.

At **Rubric Validation** a group of five educators reviews rubrics and student responses for machine-scored constructed-response field test items. The workgroup finalizes decisions about how every student answer on these items will be machine scored.

**Content Review with Data**
A group of five educators reviews student performance data for every field tested item and makes recommendations for the operational item bank based on criteria for acceptable stimuli and items.