

FAQ

Q: What are the dates and length of the content development sessions?

A: The exact dates are to-be-determined. Smarter can provide a general estimate of the expected month that an event will take place.

- Passage Review for ELA will be in July, 2021.
- Item Review for ELA will be in October, 2021.
- The first Item Review for Mathematics will be in October, 2021.
- The second Item Review for Mathematics and ALD Review will be in January, 2022.

Each meeting will be between 3 and 5 days of virtual synchronous work. ELA Passage Review may include a day of asynchronous review. Educators should anticipate conducting work during weekdays.

Q: How are educators selected for participation?

A: Smarter Balanced and the contractor will select educators to attend the meetings from across all Smarter Balanced members based on recommendations from each member's TIC. The selection of educators will aim to represent a balance of geographic region, grade levels, years of experience, diversity, and other provided information.

Q: How and when will I know if I will be selected for participation?

A: Recruitment for these meetings will occur across all Smarter Balanced members. Selected participants and alternates are expected to receive notification regarding their status of participation in May – December 2021, depending on the timeline for the associated activity. Alternates will be contacted as needed starting in August and last through the rest of the calendar year.

Q: Where do meetings occur?

A: Meetings are expected to occur virtually on Zoom or similar virtual meeting software.

Q: Will my expenses be paid?

A: Participants may receive a personal stipend for weekend or summer work, and substitute reimbursement will be offered for work on the weekdays when a substitute teacher is required.

Q: How much time can we expect to spend on this project in total?

A: The workday is approximately eight hours, with morning, afternoon and lunch breaks during meetings.

Q: How are the meetings structured?

A: Participants work in groups by grades or claims and content areas. The process begins with an orientation. Educators will complete much of the work as a group, but participants will spend some time reviewing or processing information independently.

Q: What qualifications do I need to apply to participate in the activities?**A:** Participants must meet the following qualifications:

- A. Currently certified or licensed to teach ELA/literacy or mathematics in a K-8 public school or certified to teach English learners and/or students with disabilities; and
- B. Currently teaching in a public school or currently employed by a public school, district or state education entity including higher education; and
- C. Within the past three years:

- Have taught ELA/literacy or mathematics in grades 3 through 8 or have worked in a classroom content support role such as a literacy or district or state content specialist.

AND/OR

- Have taught students with disabilities and/or English learners in grades 3 through 8 or have worked in a support role such as a district/school coordinator or instructional specialist. Specializations in visual impairments or teaching for students who are deaf and hard of hearing are encouraged.
- D. Have previously reviewed part or all of the Common Core State Standards for the content area in which they are interested in working.
 - E. For item writing, all educators must submit a statement of interest upon request that describes (a) the reason(s) for their interest in developing items for the Smarter Balanced assessment system and (b) their qualifications for doing so.

Educators who have documented expertise in the areas of science and/or social science may apply for ELA/literacy item review.

Some activities will have additional preferred experience qualifications.

Q: Are recently retired teachers eligible to participate?

A: Only educators who currently hold a position within an educational institution and meet the requirements described above are eligible to participate. Participation in these meetings also serves as a professional development opportunity for current school and district employees.

Q: Can I apply for a meeting that I'm not sure I can attend if invited?

A: Participant applications are not a commitment by the educator to attend specific meetings, nor a guarantee that the participant will be recommended by K12 Lead/TIC, or invited by Smarter. Participant applications are an expression of interest in the work. Educators are encouraged to apply even if they aren't sure they could attend the meeting (due to other commitments and conflicts).



Smarter Balanced Educator Opportunities - 2021

Table 1: Item Development Opportunities

Content	Grades	Meetings
ELA and Math	3–8	Item Review
ELA	3-8	Passage Review
Math	3–8	ALD Review



Smarter Balanced Educator Opportunities - 2021

College degree and teaching endorsements/certifications:
If indicating accessibility experience (ELLs, SWDs) please describe experience and certifications:
Previous Item Authoring or Development Experience:
Additional Information: