



## Test Development Committee Descriptions

### Annual Committees

#### Data Review

- **Purpose:** Educators are assembled to review item level data from the previous year's SC READY and EOC EP test administrations. The committee is given an overview of how to read item statistics. The item level data is used to evaluate field tested items and operational items to create a document of suggested instructional strategies based on trends in the data. The report is released to the public by January 15<sup>th</sup> each calendar year.
- **Educator Qualifications:** Participants should have at least three years of teaching experience. This committee includes classroom teachers with extensive content knowledge, educators in the special education field, and educators with endorsements in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) or Gifted and Talented (GT). Please list all applicable fields and endorsements when applying.
- **When:** This committee meets annually during the late summer.
- **Content Areas:** Math, ELA, Science, USHC

#### Passage Review:

- **Purpose:** Educators are assembled to review newly developed passages for upcoming item development. This committee represents a variety of perspectives and reviews the passages to ensure the texts are fair and appropriate for all students. Once approved, these passages will have items written to them.
- **Educator Qualifications:** Participants should have at least three years of teaching experience. This committee includes classroom teachers with extensive content knowledge, educators in the special education field, and educators with endorsements in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) or Gifted and Talented (GT). Please list all applicable fields and endorsements when applying.
- **When:** This committee meets annually during the winter.
- **Content Areas:** ELA

#### Stimulus Review

- **Purpose:** Educators are assembled to review newly developed stimuli and stimulus topics for upcoming item development. This committee represents a variety of perspectives and reviews stimuli and stimulus topics to ensure they are fair and appropriate for all students. Once approved, these stimuli and stimulus topics will have items written to them.
- **Educator Qualifications:** Participants should have at least three years of teaching experience. This committee includes classroom teachers with extensive content knowledge, educators in the special education field, and educators with endorsements in English for Speakers of Other



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- **When:** This committee meets annually during the winter.
- **Content Areas:** Science, USHC

### Content/Item Review

- **Purpose:** Educators are assembled to review newly developed items. This committee checks items for clarity, alignment to content standards, universal design, cognitive complexity, and difficulty. The committee may accept, reject, or propose changes to items. Once approved, these items will be field tested on spring test forms.
- **Educator Qualifications:** Participants should have at least three years of teaching experience. This committee includes classroom teachers with extensive content knowledge, educators in the special education field, and educators with endorsements in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) or Gifted and Talented (GT). Please list all applicable fields and endorsements when applying.
- **When:** This committee meets annually during the summer.
- **Content Areas:** Math, ELA, Science, USHC

### Fairness/Sensitivity Review

- **Purpose:** This committee reviews the items to ensure they are fair and appropriate for all students and will allow an opportunity for all students to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and abilities. This committee may propose changes to the items. Once approved, these items will be field tested on spring test forms.
- **Qualifications:** Educators and community members that represent the diverse perspectives of South Carolina are assembled to review newly developed items.
- **When:** This committee meets annually during the summer.
- **Content Areas:** Math, ELA, Science, USHC

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## Special Committees

### Rangefinding

- **Purpose:** Educators are assembled to create scoring guidelines for extended written response items. The committee scores a representative sample of open-ended student responses from the field test using an item-specific rubric. The information from this meeting will be used to score student responses when the items become operational.
- **Educator Qualifications:** Participants should have at least three years of teaching experience. This committee includes classroom teachers with extensive content knowledge, educators in the special education field, and educators with endorsements in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) or Gifted and Talented (GT). Please list all applicable fields and endorsements when applying.
- **When:** This committee meets during the summer.
- **Content Areas:** ELA

### Interim Assessment Alignment

- **Purpose:** First, an interim assessment company must meet the initial requirements to be placed on the Interim Assessment Adoption List. These companies and formative assessments are different from the South Carolina Summative Assessment Programs. Teachers are assembled to review items from the interim assessment company. Teachers review items provided by the companies to determine the number of items that align to South Carolina content standards. These results are used to determine reimbursement to districts for the interim assessments.
- **Educator Qualifications:** Participants should have at least three years of teaching experience. This committee includes classroom teachers with extensive content knowledge, educators in the special education field, and educators with endorsements in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) or Gifted and Talented (GT). Please list all applicable fields and endorsements when applying.
- **When:** This committee meets after an interim assessment company meets initial requirements to be on the Formative Assessment Adoption List.
- **Content Areas:** Math, ELA

### Item Bank Alignment

- **Purpose:** Educators are assembled to review the existing operational item bank for alignment to the new content standards. The committee aligns current operational items to the new content standards or designates them as items that do not align. Realigned operational items form the basis of the item bank for the new content standards.
- **Educator Qualifications:** Participants should have at least three years of teaching experience. This committee includes classroom teachers with extensive content knowledge, educators in the special education field, and educators with endorsements in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) or Gifted and Talented (GT). Please list all applicable fields and endorsements when applying.
- **When:** This committee meets after new content standards are approved.
- **Content Areas:** Math, ELA, Science, USHC

### Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)

- **Purpose:** Educators are selected to review and revise drafted PLDs to articulate the expectations of the new content standards. The performance levels for SC READY are “does not meet,” “approaches,” “meets,” and “exceeds.” The EOCEP performance levels are “does not meet,” “minimally meets,” “meets,” and “exceeds.” PLDs are descriptions of the knowledge, skills, and abilities expected of students in each performance level as defined by the South Carolina content standards. PLDs represent a progression of knowledge and skills that students are expected to have mastered across the performance levels. PLDs are used to set the academic achievement standards in Standard Setting. The final version is adopted by the SCDE and released to the field.
- **Educator Qualifications:** Participants should have at least three years of teaching experience. This committee includes classroom teachers with extensive content knowledge, educators in the special education field, and educators with endorsements in English for Speakers of Other



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- **When:** This committee meets after new content standards are approved.
- **Content Areas:** Math, ELA, Science, USHC

### Standard Setting

- **Purpose:** As a new test enters the statewide assessment system, a Standards Validation or Standards Setting Committee is convened to confirm or determine cut scores for each achievement level. Teachers are tasked with setting academic achievement standards aligned to the drafted Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs). The proposed academic achievement standards are then presented to the State Superintendent of Education for adoption into policy.
- **Educator Qualifications:** Participants should have at least three years of teaching experience. This committee includes classroom teachers with extensive content knowledge, educators in the special education field, and educators with endorsements in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) or Gifted and Talented (GT). Please list all applicable fields and endorsements when applying.
- **When:** This committee meets after new content standards are approved and a new operational test is administered to assess students' knowledge, skills, and abilities as defined in the new content standards.
- **Content Areas:** Math, ELA, Science, USHC