



## Seeking Item Writers for Science Dynamic Learning Maps 2014-15!

The Science Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment Consortium is seeking educators to write testlets (sets of 3-5 items) for the new 2014-15 assessments! Items will be written in January 2015.

### What is Science Dynamic Learning Maps?

The Science Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment Consortium currently includes five partner states and is based at the University of Kansas. DLM is developing a next generation alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Science DLM assessments measure student mastery of content in Science. The assessments will primarily be delivered in the form of short testlets that contain 3-5 items.

### What is item writing?

Item writing for Science DLM involves learning about the DLM project, the students we serve and the fundamentals of item writing and applying that knowledge to the creation of high-quality content for DLM alternate assessments. New testlets will be written for the Science DLM 2014-15 pilot test.

### What does an item writer do?

An item writer will complete an on-line self-paced item writing training course that will provide writers with DLM Science background information as well as item writing 101. Item writers will then participate in an in-person item writing workshop in Kansas, where each item writer will be given specific item writing assignments to complete during the workshop with the facilitation of DLM experts. Additional opportunities may be available for continued item writing after the on-site workshop.

### What would being an item writer mean for me?

1. Once selected, you will successfully complete the online self-paced item writing training course. This course will involve approximately 10 hours of online training modules and activities. The training course will be need to be completed between December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Compensation for the online training course will be contingent on the following: (1) successful completion of the modules which will be defined by submitting to DLM the final item writing task assignment at the end of the training course, and (2) subsequent attendance to the item writing workshop described in the next paragraph.
2. You will then travel to Kansas City, Missouri and participate in a four day item writing workshop to be held at the Hilton Kansas City Airport Hotel from January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (with travel on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>). You will be assigned batches of testlets to write over the course of the four days with feedback from DLM experts. DLM staff will facilitate the meeting and feedback process.
3. Item writers will receive the following compensation:
  - a. Item Writer Training (approx. 10 hours): \$300.00 (flat rate upon successful completion of training and workshop participation)
  - b. Item Writer Workshop (4 days in Kansas City, MO): cost of substitute reimbursement (if applicable and to be sent directly to district) OR \$150 honorarium per day (if not currently under contract with a district). Cost of travel, hotel and per diem for food is paid by DLM for all workshop participants.



### **What are the requirements to be an item writer?**

Minimum professional qualifications include:

1. Bachelor's Degree in a field related to education and/or assessment.
2. Experience instructing students with significant cognitive disabilities and/or teaching experience in Science-related fields.
3. Excellent oral and written communication in English as evidenced by application materials and interview.

Preferred Qualifications:

1. Experience with Science academic content standards.
2. Experience with or knowledge of large-scale assessments, item development, state testing, and/or state content standards.
3. Master's Degree in a field related to Science or Special Education.

Additional requirements:

1. All item writers must have access to a computer with internet access to complete the pre-workshop training. Item writers will be asked to bring laptops with them to the item writing workshop.
2. Item writers will need to be able to complete the online training course no later than January 5, 2015.
3. Item writers must commit to participating in the entire on-site workshop (January 12-15 in Kansas City).

### **How do I sign up?**

If you are interested in becoming a Science DLM item writer, please fill out a survey at [https://kansasedu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_9KWHtNe8ipkezeB](https://kansasedu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9KWHtNe8ipkezeB). Once DLM receives your information, we will contact you for your resume and any other application materials.