

NY 3-8 State Assessment Cognitive Laboratory

Introduction

As part of our contract with NYSED's Office of State Assessment, NWEA will be conducting a research study known as a cognitive laboratory. Participants will be elementary and middle school students from New York. We are seeking interest from school/district leaders and will work directly with them to establish details of participation.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to determine if test questions

- a) developed for the NYS 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Assessments are assessing the constructs intended,
- b) are performing as expected, and
- c) are reaching the performance levels they were designed to reach.

Participants

The goal is to recruit 36 students from each participating school district. Six students will be selected from each grade level, grades 3-8 (three for ELA and three for math). The students will be selected by building leaders and permission to participate asked of parents/guardians. Participation will be completely voluntary.

What Students Will Be Asked To Do

Each student will answer four to five ELA or Math questions similar to the test questions seen on the NY Grades 3-8 Assessments. While answering the questions, interviewers from NWEA will ask the student to explain the process they are using and to describe their thinking when answering each question. After all questions have been answered, the interviewer will ask the student a few general questions about the test. For data analysis purposes, each session will be audio-recorded and written notes will be taken. The entire process will be conducted in a period of less than one hour.

Confidentiality

Procedures will be followed to protect the confidentiality of the participants. For example, all data will be stored in secure password-protected folders accessible only to those whose access to the data is essential to the investigation. All paper copies of the data will be securely shredded after the analysis is completed.

Time and Location

The cognitive laboratories will be conducted as a controlled study with a well-designed methodology at elementary and middle schools throughout New York State during a regular school day in May or June 2023. We will be working with schools during the months of March and April to disseminate this information.

Contact

Interested schools should respond by contacting the lead investigator, Dr. Les Sewall, via email at Les.Sewall@NWEA.org with any questions.