

New York State Assessment Cognitive Interview: Grades 5 & 8 Science and Algebra I Participating School Informational Flyer

Introduction

In an effort to better understand the relationship between the New York State Learning Standards and the Grade 5 & Grade 8 Science Tests and the Regents Examination in Algebra I, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) has contracted with edCount, LLC, to conduct an evaluation, through interviews, of the cognitive processes measured by each of these assessments. The purpose of this flyer is to provide information about your school's participation in this evaluation, including requirements.

Purpose of the Evaluation

The purpose of this cognitive interview is to help NYSED better understand the concepts being measured by these assessments. The purpose of this evaluation is not to measure individual student achievement on the assessments.

What will my students be asked to do?

You will be asked to identify five students for each of the assessments (three primary students and two alternate students in case of absence or unavailability) to do the following:

- Read and respond to approximately six questions from the assessments.
- Participate in a think-aloud protocol, telling the evaluator what they are thinking as they read and respond to each question.
- Answer questions from the evaluator, after completion of all items, about the thought processes they applied as they read and responded to the questions.

This evaluation will take approximately 60-90 minutes to complete. The interviews will be audio recorded, and parents of all participating students must provide signed agreement on the provided permission form prior to participation.

Which students will be identified for participation in the evaluation?

Students selected to participate should have demonstrated proficiency in science/math achievement throughout the school year during routine classroom assignments, items, and assessments.

When will the evaluation take place?

This evaluation will take place during regular classroom activities in May 2023. A contact from edCount, LLC, will reach out to identify dates, times, and an interview location within your school. This location will need to be private, with consideration for test security and for minimizing distractions during the interview.

How will privacy and confidentiality be protected?

Privacy and confidentiality will be protected by reporting data without the use of any individual names or identifying information. Participating district, school, and student names will not be included in any reports of these data. The focus of this evaluation is to understand whether questions on the Grade 5 & Grade 8 Science Tests and the Regents Examination in Algebra I are measuring the concepts that they are intended to measure, not how well your district, school, or students achieve in science/math.

Participating students will be audio recorded. Any audio recordings will be stored securely, and only the evaluation team will have access to the recordings. Recordings will be kept for six months and then erased.

Whom to contact with questions about the evaluation

Prior to, during, or after your participation you can contact the lead evaluator, Dr. Melissa Fincher, via email at mfincher@edCount.com with any questions.