



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT/THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK/ALBANY, NY  
12234

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Allison Armour-Garb  
Executive Director  
Educator Effectiveness Policy and Programs

Dear New York State Educator:

Thank you for your interest in the New York State Teacher Certification Examinations™ (NYSTCE®). Participation in NYSTCE activities provides educators with an opportunity to work with a group of colleagues from across the state to support their profession, to learn about assessment, and to contribute to the high quality of public education in New York. We are currently seeking educators to assist in the Board of Regents reform agenda by serving on committees charged with redeveloping the Content Specialty Tests (CSTs) that prospective teachers must pass for certification. These committees will convene several times over the course of the next few years. A link to the application form is at the bottom of this letter.

**Why is the New York State Education Department revising teacher certification exams?** The Board of Regents has raised the bar for New York's students, with the ultimate goal of increasing the opportunity for all students to graduate from high school ready for college and careers. Research indicates that the quality of teachers is a key variable in promoting student achievement and growth, and the Regents have therefore undertaken a comprehensive set of initiatives to improve educator effectiveness—including strengthening the assessments for the certification of teachers and school building leaders. It is essential to align the CSTs with the newly-adopted New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards in Mathematics, and English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Science, Science and Technical Subjects because these new standards reflect the knowledge and skills that our students need for success in college and careers.

**What qualifications should an educator have in order to serve on one of our test development committees?** In all aspects of our test development process, we are committed to involving highly skilled New York State public school educators and college and university faculty who teach prospective teachers. This helps us ensure that our certification exams reflect the knowledge and skills that are important for the job of an educator in New York State public schools. We are seeking educators who share the Regents' commitment to ensuring that there is an effective teacher in every classroom and who believe in the goal of college- and career-readiness for all students. They should have a track record of promoting student achievement and growth, and a solid understanding of the NYS Learning Standards—particularly the Common Core.

**How to apply?** If you are qualified and willing to serve on one of our test development committees, I encourage you to fill out an on-line application and also nominate other highly qualified New York State educators for participation in test development activities. To complete the application please visit the Web site <http://www.nyrecruit.nesinc.com>. Upon receipt, your application will be reviewed by the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson and the New York State Education Department in regard to open committee spaces. If your qualifications match an opening you will be sent an e-mail invitation. If committees are full, we will keep your application on file for future use.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to e-mail the Committee Recruitment Group at Evaluation Systems at: [EvaluationSystemsCRG@pearson.com](mailto:EvaluationSystemsCRG@pearson.com). Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Allison Armour-Garb  
Executive Director