



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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December 12, 2008

TO: LEA Superintendents
Charter School Directors

FROM: Rebecca B. Garland *RBG*
Associate State Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

Angela H. Quick *AH*
Assistant State Superintendent/Deputy Chief Academic Officer

Gary L. Williamson *GLW*
Director of Accountability Operations

SUBJECT: Distributed Scoring for the NC General Writing Assessment at Grade 10

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) is pleased to offer North Carolina educators the ability to participate in the distributed scoring of the 2009 North Carolina Writing Assessment at Grade 10. Distributed Scoring consists of scanning handwritten student essays into a vendor's computer system which distributes them securely online to scorers. Scorers securely download the necessary computer programs and software, and then score student responses from home using a secure web site.

As in previous years, all potential scoring candidates must meet rigorous requirements set forth by NCDPI. Potential scorers must first meet the eligibility criteria and then pass the necessary requirements in order to qualify for a scoring position. After getting approval to score the assessments, scorers must maintain the high reliability standards required by NCDPI. Those who do not will be removed from the project and all of the student responses they scored will be rescored. Scorers will also be required to sign Test Security and Confidentiality Agreements.

Pearson, the vendor for this project, will continue to provide the central headquarters to supervise the scoring operation. In addition, NCDPI personnel will be able to monitor scorers and the scoring process through remote access and will also have the capability to generate real-time scoring reports and data statistics on the scorers.

Educators who are interested in this opportunity must follow the procedures listed below in order to be included in the applicant pool.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY SERVICES

6314 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6314 | (919) 807-3770 | Fax (919) 807-3772

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

NC Scoring Application Process

1. Please visit the Pearson web site for North Carolina at: **<http://www.flexiblescoring-nc.pearson.com>**. You can read more about the distributed scoring process, find out about the technology requirements for your computer, and read the qualifications for prospective applicants.
2. Apply for scoring positions online at: **<http://www.flexiblescoring-nc.pearson.com>** or **<https://websurveyor.net/wsb.dll/80911/Scoreessaysfromhomeapp1.htm>**. Please submit online applications from December 12, 2008 to January 25, 2009.
3. Approximately one week after the online application is submitted, applicants will receive a generic e-mail stating that Pearson has received the information.
4. Notification letters will be sent during the week of February 9, 2009 to applicants who are selected for a scoring position. The offer will request that the applicant either accept or decline the position.
5. If the applicant is not selected for this position or decides to decline the position, their application will remain on file for consideration for other programs.
6. If the position is accepted, then the applicant will be required to complete employment paperwork (including an I-9 signed and verified by a Notary) and a Computer Inventory (a brief system check to make sure their PC is compatible with the ePEN software). The applicant will have approximately three weeks to complete these steps.
7. Approximately two weeks after all paperwork is due to Pearson Human Resources Division, applicants will receive a "Welcome" e-mail with project dates and passwords to access the secure site. If any paperwork and computer checks have not been completed by March 16, 2009, the applicant will be removed from the pool of potential scorers.

Please share this information with individuals who may be interested in applying to participate in the distributed scoring of the North Carolina Writing Assessments at Grade 10. We appreciate your continued support for the North Carolina Testing and Accountability Programs.

RBG/AHQ/GLW/aw

- c: Test Coordinators/Directors
Regional Accountability Coordinators
June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent
J. B. Buxton, Deputy State Superintendent
Lou Fabrizio, Director of Accountability Policy and Communications
Tammy Howard, Section Chief, Test Development
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