TESTING 123

The MCA Item Review Process: Based on Teacher Feedback

1 Item writers are given assignments to write new test questions, called items. These items are designed to align with the Minnesota Academic Standards.

2 The newly written items are sent to Pearson, MDE's testing vendor, for review and editing. When they're finished, Pearson sends the items to MDE for a second round of review and editing.

3 MDE invites groups of Minnesota teachers to review and edit the new items before they are field tested.

If you are interested in being invited to this review, please sign up on the MDE website

Teachers Needed!

4 Next, the items are field tested, which means they are mixed into a current assessment and administered to students. Field testing is used to determine whether the items are appropriate for actual use on the MCA test. Student responses to the field test items do NOT count toward the student's test scores.

5 Groups of Minnesota teachers are invited to reevaluate the field tested items, based on the item statistics and content, to determine whether the item is appropriate for use on the MCA.

If you are interested in being invited to this review, the previous sign up on the MDE website will place you in the pool of candidates.

6 The final items chosen by teachers to be operational (which means they count toward student scores) are added to the item bank to be used on future MCAs.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION