

WKCE Test Items – Development and Scoring Process



Office of Educational Accountability



Test vendor item writers develop draft test items based on the requirements in the Wisconsin Assessment Frameworks. Items must represent the depth and breadth of the standards, with varying levels of difficulty.

Wisconsin educators review and revise draft test items at a Content and Bias Review meeting. Items are checked for content, grade-level vocabulary, and any potential bias for a group of students.



The revised test items are field-tested across the state. The items are embedded into an operational test but are scored separately and do not affect the student's test score.

Field-test-item statistics are reviewed to make sure that they performed within certain acceptable parameters. If an item does not have acceptable statistics, it is eliminated or revised for additional future field testing.



Wisconsin educators develop the scoring guides used by human scorers to determine how constructed-response field-test items should be scored. Actual student responses are reviewed, and the range of possible correct responses is determined. Scorers are trained on these acceptable responses.



Acceptable field-tested items are placed in the item pool for possible selection on an operational test form. Each year the selected test items must be equated to the previous year's test so that results can be compared across years. Students take the WKCE operational test each November.



Completed WKCE tests are sent to a scoring facility in Indiana. Each school's tests are counted and scanned separately. If the scanner cannot determine an intended multiple-choice response, then the book is pulled and read by hand. Every effort is made to determine a student's intent.

Constructed-response items are scored by college-educated scorers trained on the scoring guides for a small number of items. Over two million such items are scored each year. Scorers can adjust the computer resolution as needed and can request that the actual book be pulled if a response is not readable.



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