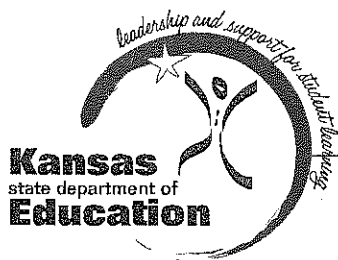


APR 05 2010



Kansas State Department of Education

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April 2, 2010

Mr. Steve Wiseman
Atchison County Community Schools
P O Box 289
Effingham, KS 66023

Dear Superintendent Wiseman:


Your district has been selected to participate in a research study conducted by the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and WestEd, a nonprofit educational research agency. The study is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services and focuses on the Kansas Assessment of Modified Measures (KAMM), the state's Alternate Assessment Based on Modified Academic Achievement Standards (AA-MAS). This letter is to notify you that selected educators in your district may be invited via e-mail to participate in a 20-minute online educator survey about the KAMM. The survey will help KSDE and WestEd learn more about educators' views on the appropriateness and effectiveness of certain types of test items for students who meet the KAMM participation criteria.

In addition to the survey, selected schools in your district may be invited to participate in *one* of the following:

- student cognitive interviews, which will help us learn more about the effectiveness of certain item enhancement strategies and about the types of items that best help students with disabilities demonstrate what they know and can do on standardized achievement tests; and
- a small-scale pilot test, administered to students in a few intact classrooms across the state that include students with disabilities and general education students. The pilot test is intended to help us learn more about the effectiveness of different enhancement strategies on reading and mathematics test items.

All research activities are voluntary, and the identities of districts, schools, teachers, and students will remain confidential. Activities involving students will require parent/guardian consent. All procedures and materials have been approved by KSDE and by an Internal Review Board (IRB) that oversees human subjects research. Research activities will be conducted between April 5 and May 20, 2010. The results of this study will be used for research purposes only, specifically to inform KSDE about how to improve the KAMM to better serve the students whose academic progress the KAMM aims to assess. Participants will receive a thank-you gift for taking part in the study.

If you have questions about this study, please contact Dr. Edynn Sato, Study Director, WestEd by telephone at 415-615-3226 or by e-mail at esato@wested.org. Thank you!


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