

WCAS Item Cluster Writing Work Group

Purpose: Teams of two to three educator participants write items aligned to the Washington State 2013 K-12 Science Learning Standards (NGSS) for a science stimulus. The teams also develop rubrics designed to validly measure student understanding of the science standards.

Meeting Specifications: A cluster requires a pair of teachers two (2) days to produce; producing two (2) clusters per team during the work group is the average rate.

Work Group Roles:

Educators

- Work in teams to write, review, and finalize 2-3 clusters
- Provide classroom and grade-level expertise
- Maintain confidentiality of clusters

OSPI and Vendor

- Provide training on item cluster development
- Facilitate team collaboration and review
- Ensure quality and consistency of products
- Maintain confidentiality of clusters

Process: After initial training on item cluster development, educators work in teams to:

1. Review the learning expectation, including the PE, Item Specifications, NGSS Progressions, and supporting *K-12 Framework Appendices*
2. Read the initial scenario scaffold (provided by OSPI)
3. Research, revise, replace, and work as a team to develop a cohesive item cluster using the provided templates while ensuring that each item is accurate and documented against reliable sources.
4. Collaborate with two other teams to peer review each cluster twice, considering item alignment, cluster alignment, evidence statements, rubrics, and rigor, among other factors like Universal Design for Learning
5. Finalize the cluster based on the peer review feedback
6. Repeat for a second cluster

