



SHERRI YBARRA
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

650 W. STATE STREET
P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE: 208-332-6800
FAX: 208-334-2228
SPEECH/HEARING
IMPAIRED: 1-800-377-3529

Background and Introduction

In accordance with Idaho Code § 33-134, the Idaho State Board of Education established a review committee intended to ensure that parents of students, teachers, administrators and school board members, in Idaho's public education system have the opportunity to review the types and kinds of questions that are used on the state assessments. The law requires a committee of thirty individuals representing each of the six educational regions of the state annually review all summative computer adaptive test questions for bias and sensitivity. The committee is authorized to make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education to revise or eliminate summative computer adaptive test questions from statewide assessments. According to the law, a committee of 30 Idaho residence shall include the following members from the six regions of Idaho and shall be appointed by the State Board of Education: two parents of public school or public charter school students; one public school or public charter school teacher; one member who is an administrator of a school district or public charter school; and one member from the district board of trustees or public charter school board of directors.

Pursuant to this law, 33,655 items (16,949 English Language Arts and 16,706 Mathematics) items required committee review. Following recommendations by the Idaho Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), each item was recommended to be reviewed by at least three committee members at random with group discussion of all items that received a 2/3rd vote from the committee indicating there were bias and sensitivity concerns. In order to accomplish this work in one week, the Idaho State Department of Education (SDE) along with their subcontractor, the American Institutes for Research (AIR), determined two committee meetings would be required. The first committee would be comprised of approximately 120 individuals who would review the 33,655 items during a meeting held in Boise on December 15-19, 2014. Once trained in bias and sensitivity concerns (Attachment 2 and Attachment 3), individuals were instructed to flag items for possible follow-up review and discussion. Figure 1 illustrates the Content Rater Interface in which panelists would view the item, flag it if necessary and add a comment. After finalizing the large group review to include only those items that received multiple flags, a second review was conducted. In Round Two, the 30 panelists reviewed the multi-flagged items again. Items which were flagged by 1/3 (10 members) of the smaller committee, moved onto Round Three which consisted of the 30 committee members who would reconvene in January to discuss the items as a group and to determine the final list of items to be recommended to the State Board of Education for consideration to be rejected from the Spring 2015 summative computer adaptive tests.

The SDE recruited 167 volunteers with nearly 80 participants attending the December 2014 meeting. Outreach was done via newsletter, webex, face-to-face meetings and direct emails to teachers, parent groups, principals, superintendent and school board members. Of the 167 people who initially volunteered, many were unable to attend the week-long training. Of the nearly 80 who did attend, all six regions of Idaho and 42 cities were represented. For the



SHERRI YBARRA
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

650 W. STATE STREET
P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE: 208-332-6800
FAX: 208-334-2228
SPEECH/HEARING
IMPAIRED: 1-800-377-3529

committee of 30, all six regions and 25 cities were represented including 10 teachers, 9 parents, 6 administrators and 5 school board members.

Process and Training

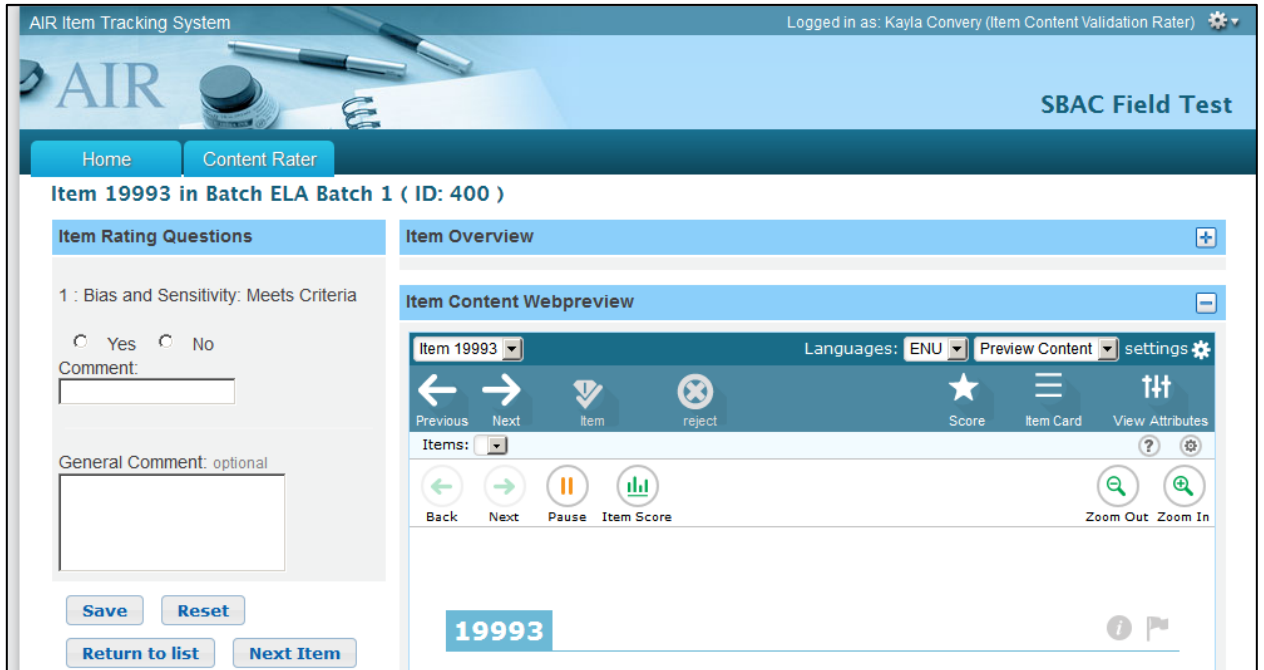
For ease of assignment and review by the committee, AIR organized the items into batches broken down by grade and subject. 75 English Language Arts (ELA) batches and 49 Mathematics batches were created by AIR prior to the December committee meeting. To create the Mathematics and ELA batches for December committee review, all Interim Item IDs were identified and excluded. To create the Mathematics batches the items were sorted by grade and then by Item ID. The 16,706 Mathematics items were then assembled into forty-nine batches. Forty-eight of those batches contained 341 items. The forty-ninth batch contained 338 items. Each of the forty-nine Mathematics batches was then randomly assigned to three different committee members. To create the ELA batches the items were sorted by grade and then by Item ID. The 16,949 ELA items were assembled into seventy-five batches. Seventy-four of those batches contained 226 items. The seventy-fifth batch contained 225 items. Each of the seventy-five ELA batches was then randomly assigned to three different committee members.

AIR configured the Item Tracking System to create the “Bias and Sensitivity Review” in the Content Rater Interface so that committee members could electronically submit feedback about each item. As shown in Figure 1, the Content Rater Interface displayed the item with a click to enlarge box that contained the Item Rating Question (with Comment Boxes for feedback), Item Overview (which included item alignment information), and the Item Content Web preview which is a rendering of the item as it would appear to the student during administration. In addition, the Content Rater interface contained one question for the committee to answer: “Bias and Sensitivity: Meets Criteria”. A response of “Yes” or “No” was required for each item; if individuals determined that the item did not meet the Bias and Sensitivity criteria as outlined in the training presentation and as per the AIR L.A.B.S. guidelines (Attachment 3), then the panelist would select “No” and would be required to provide a comment explaining the reasoning.

Prior to the committee meeting, AIR created usernames and passwords for each committee member within the Item Tracking System. AIR loaded and, at random, pre-assigned several batches for each committee member to review. To meet the goal of completing all batches by the end of a single week, committee members were instructed to ask for additional batches as they completed and submitted their assignments.



Figure 1. Content Rater Interface



In order to train the committee on bias and sensitivity guidelines, AIR created and presented the “Idaho Bias & Sensitivity Review” PowerPoint presentation (Attachment 2). Additionally, AIR provided a handout titled “Summary of Language Accessibility, Bias, and Sensitivity (L.A.B.S.) Guidelines” (Attachment 3) that committee members were able to reference during their reviews.

Upon completion of the Bias and Sensitivity training, the committee was trained on how to log into the Item Tracking System to use Content Rater Interface to submit their feedback on each item electronically.

December Meeting Summary

AIR set up computers in a classroom-style room arrangement in order to facilitate individual reviews by the panelist. The Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Luna, began the December meeting by presenting the “Achievement Level Setting: Establishing a new baseline for college and career readiness standards” video to the committee (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bW_yGf4BB1E). Senator Dean Mortimer, Senator Steven Thayne and State Board Member Debbie Critchfield were in attendance.

In order to monitor the committee’s progress, AIR provided daily progress reports to SDE for review each morning. The committee reviewed all items at a faster pace than anticipated allowing the meetings to adjourn one day early.



SHERRI YBARRA
 SUPERINTENDENT OF
 PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

650 W. STATE STREET
 P.O. BOX 83720
 BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE: 208-332-6800
 FAX: 208-334-2228
 SPEECH/HEARING
 IMPAIRED: 1-800-377-3529

At the conclusion of the December meeting all 33,655 items were reviewed by at least three committee members. In order to determine which items would be reviewed by the small group of thirty committee members, AIR identified the Item IDs which had been flagged by two or more committee members. Specifically, an item was flagged when a committee member answered “No” to the “Bias and Sensitivity: Meets Criteria” question. Therefore, an item with “Zero Flags” means that none of the committee members answered “No” to the “Bias and Sensitivity: Meets Criteria” question when they reviewed the item. An item with “One Flag” means that one of the committee members answered “No”. An item with “Two Flags” means that two of the committee members answered “No”. An item with “Three Flags” means that three of the committee members answered “No”. As advised by Idaho’s TAC, only the items with two or three flags would be reviewed by the smaller group of 30. A detailed summary of the December meeting’s results is given below in Table 1.

Table 1. Results of Large Group December Meeting

Results of December Meeting - Large Group Parent Bias and Sensitivity Review

	Total Items Reviewed	Number of Items with Zero Flags	Number of Items with One Flag	Number of Items with Two Flags	Number of Items with Three Flags
ELA	16949	16204	714	30	1
MATH	16706	16252	404	48	2
TOTAL	33655	32456	1118	78	3

Figure 2 below is a graph of the number of reviewers that flagged a particular percentage of the Mathematics and ELA items they reviewed during the December meeting. From the graph, it can be noted that a significant majority flagged between zero and one percent of the items (25 and 30 panelists, respectively). One reviewer flagged 7% of all of the Mathematics and English Language Arts items he/she reviewed.

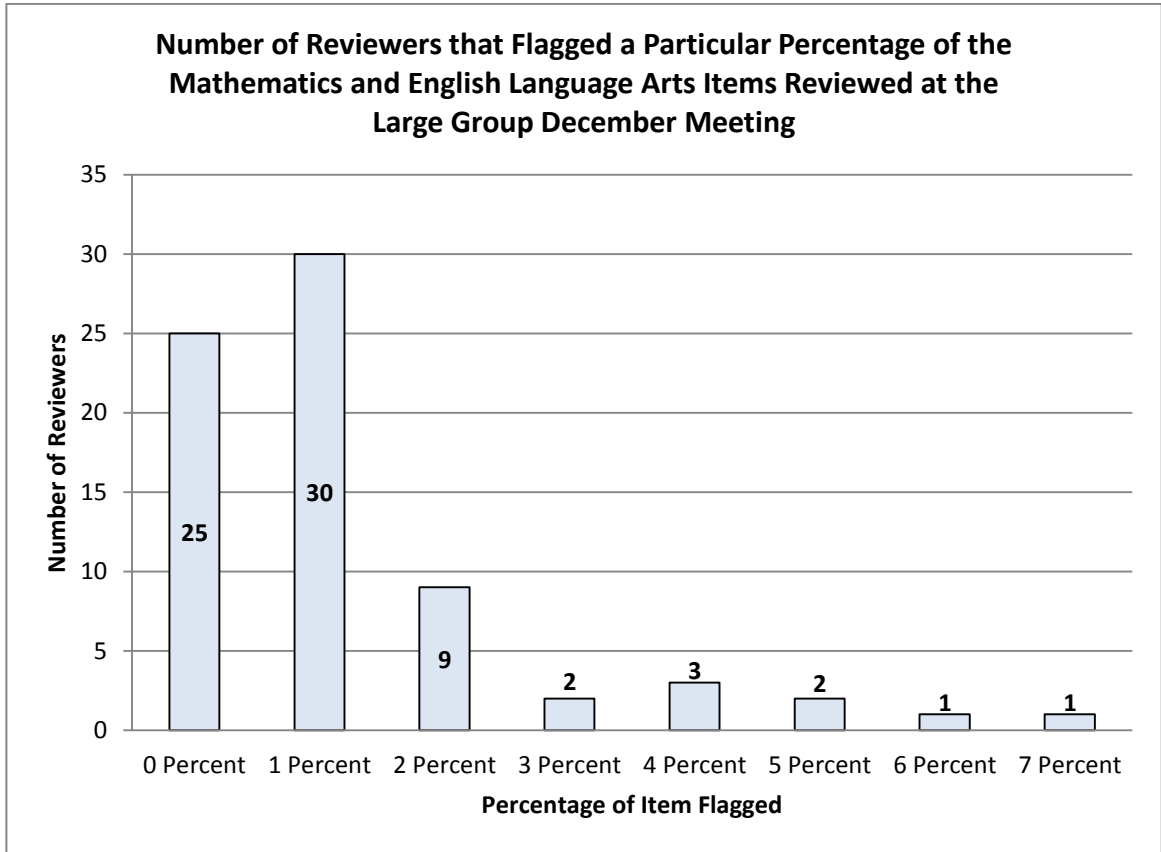


SHERRI YBARRA
 SUPERINTENDENT OF
 PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

650 W. STATE STREET
 P.O. BOX 83720
 BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE: 208-332-6800
 FAX: 208-334-2228
 SPEECH/HEARING
 IMPAIRED: 1-800-377-3529

Figure 2. Number of Reviewers that Flagged a Particular Percentage of Items



At the conclusion of the December meeting, SDE conducted a 12-question survey to gather feedback on the process and experience (Attachment 4 and Attachment 5). SDE also provided the committee members the opportunity to participate in an interview which was made into a short video: <http://youtu.be/EUYzwh6c4I8>.

January Meeting Summary

Due to the shorter than expected time to review all of items in December, the smaller group of 32 individuals who were recruited to be a part of the group discussion meeting scheduled for January were able to start Round Two of item review in December. This small group of 32 was asked to conduct another individual review on each item that was flagged by two or more members from the larger group. The large group had multi-flagged a total of 31 ELA items and 50 math items for review by the smaller group and a batch of the 81 multi-flagged items was created. The small group committee members used the same Content Rater Interface and were asked to answer the same “Bias and Sensitivity: Meets Criteria” question. A response of “Yes” or “No” was required for each item; if individuals determined the item did not meet the Bias and Sensitivity criteria as outlined in the training presentation and the L.A.B.S. guidelines, then he or she answered the “Bias and Sensitivity: Meets Criteria” question “No”, and entered a comment explaining his/her reasoning.



SHERRI YBARRA
 SUPERINTENDENT OF
 PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

A detailed summary of the results of the 'pre-vote' conducted by the small group of 32 committee members in December is below in Table 2 (ELA) and Table 3 (Math).

Table 2. Results of Small Group Analysis – ELA Items

650 W. STATE STREET
 P.O. BOX 83720
 BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE: 208-332-6800
 FAX: 208-334-2228
 SPEECH/HEARING
 IMPAIRED: 1-800-377-3529

Idaho ELA Bias and Sensitivity Pre-Vote

Results of Small Group Analysis

Item Identifier	Number of Raters that Voted "Yes" (the item is free from Bias)	Number of Raters that Voted "No" (the item is NOT free from Bias)	Grand Total
101	18	14	32
102	17	15	32
103	20	12	32
104	21	11	32
105	21	11	32
106	20	12	32
107	28	4	32
108	25	7	32
109	25	7	32
110	30	2	32
111	25	7	32
112	25	7	32
113	25	7	32
114	25	7	32
115	23	9	32
116	25	7	32
117	25	7	32
118	24	8	32
119	20	12	32
120	24	8	32
121	26	6	32
122	11	21	32
123	25	7	32
124	24	8	32
125	25	7	32
126	31	1	32
127	26	6	32
128	20	12	32
129	26	6	32

Number of ELA Items Flagged by 2/3 of the Smaller Group as Being Biased	0
<i>i.e., 22 or more of Smaller Group Participants answered "No"</i>	
<hr/>	
Number of ELA Items Flagged by 1/2 of the Smaller Group as Being Biased	1
<i>i.e., 16 or more of Smaller Group Participants answered "No"</i>	
<hr/>	
Number of ELA Items Flagged by 1/3 of the Smaller Group as Being Biased	10
<i>i.e., 10 or more of Smaller Group Participants answered "No"</i>	



SHERRI YBARRA
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

650 W. STATE STREET
P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE: 208-332-6800
FAX: 208-334-2228
SPEECH/HEARING
IMPAIRED: 1-800-377-3529

Item Identifier	Number of Raters that Voted "Yes" (the item is free from Bias)	Number of Raters that Voted "No" (the item is NOT free from Bias)	Grand Total
130	25	7	32
131	21	11	32

Table 3. Results of Small Group Analysis – MATH Items

Idaho MATH ELA Bias and Sensitivity Pre-Vote

Results of Small Group Analysis

Item Identifier	Number of Raters that Voted "Yes" (the item is free from Bias)	Number of Raters that Voted "No" (the item is NOT free from Bias)	Grand Total
201	32	0	32
202	28	4	32
203	29	3	32
204	29	3	32
205	24	8	32
206	23	9	32
207	29	3	32
208	29	3	32
209	28	4	32
210	29	3	32
211	31	1	32
212	29	3	32
213	21	11	32
214	32	0	32
215	31	1	32
216	28	4	32
217	31	1	32
218	28	4	32
219	29	3	32
220	28	4	32
221	22	10	32
222	26	6	32
223	26	6	32
224	27	5	32

Number of MATH Items Flagged by 2/3 of the Smaller Group as Being Biased	0
<i>i.e., 22 or more of Smaller Group Participants answered "No"</i>	
Number of MATH Items Flagged by 1/2 of the Smaller Group as Being Biased	0
<i>i.e., 16 or more of Smaller Group Participants answered "No"</i>	
Number of MATH Items Flagged by 1/3 of the Smaller Group as Being Biased	9
<i>i.e., 10 or more of Smaller Group Participants answered "No"</i>	



SHERRI YBARRA
 SUPERINTENDENT OF
 PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

650 W. STATE STREET
 P.O. BOX 83720
 BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE: 208-332-6800
 FAX: 208-334-2228
 SPEECH/HEARING
 IMPAIRED: 1-800-377-3529

Item ID	Number of Raters that Voted "Yes" (the item is free from Bias)	Number of Raters that Voted "No" (the item is NOT free from Bias)	Grand Total
225	30	2	32
226	29	3	32
227	26	6	32
228	25	7	32
229	27	5	32
230	31	1	32
231	31	1	32
232	21	11	32
233	21	11	32
234	21	11	32
235	20	12	32
236	27	5	32
237	29	3	32
238	29	3	32
239	26	6	32
240	22	10	32
241	27	5	32
242	28	4	32
243	24	8	32
244	21	11	32
245	21	11	32
246	29	3	32
247	28	4	32
248	24	8	32
249	23	9	32
250	27	5	32

An analysis of the ‘pre-vote’ from Round Two was conducted by SDE. It was determined that only the items that were flagged by at least 1/3rd of the small group participants would be openly discussed and reviewed again at the January meeting. Based on this information, the group of 30 committee members, as required by law, would review ten ELA items and nine Math items at the January meeting.

The structure for the January committee was as follows: all members conducted an anonymous ‘pre-vote’ consisting of individual reviews of the flagged list provided by the larger group to determine initial concerns about bias and sensitivity in these items (pre-vote conducted



SHERRI YBARRA
 SUPERINTENDENT OF
 PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

650 W. STATE STREET
 P.O. BOX 83720
 BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE: 208-332-6800
 FAX: 208-334-2228
 SPEECH/HEARING
 IMPAIRED: 1-800-377-3529

in December); items that were flagged by 1/3rd of the small group committee members from the ‘pre-vote’ were discussed by the small group; all members conducted an anonymous ‘post-vote’ after discussion was adjourned; results of the ‘post-vote’ were shown to the small group and recorded by the AIR facilitators.

Items that received a 2/3rd vote at the end of the ‘post-vote’ will be sent to the State Board of Education for consideration in removing from the summative computer adaptive test as required by Idaho Code § 33-134. A detailed summary of the results of the ‘post-vote’ is below in Table 4.

Table 4. Results of Small Group Post Vote - ELA Items

Idaho ELA Bias and Sensitivity January Meeting
Results of Small Group Post Vote

Item ID	Number of Raters that Voted "Yes" (the item is free from Bias)	Number of Raters that Voted "No" (the item is NOT free from Bias)	Reason for Recommended Rejection of the Item
101	16	14	
102	30	0	
103	29	1	
104*	10	20	Localized Sensitive or Controversial Subject
105*	16	14	
106*	12	18	
119	19	11	
121	24	6	
128	27	3	
131	28	2	

**Additionally, the small group recommended that Audio Clip 1126 also be rejected because of localized sensitive or controversial subject matter. Item IDs 104, 105 & 106 are associated to Audio Clip 1126. Removal of the audio clip by the State Board would lead to removal of these three items.*



Table 5. Results of Small Group Post Vote – MATH Items

Idaho MATH Bias and Sensitivity January Meeting

Results of Small Group Post Vote

Item ID	Number of Raters that Voted "Yes" (the item is free from Bias)	Number of Raters that Voted "No" (the item is NOT free from Bias)	Reason for Recommended Rejection
213	30	0	
221	11	19	This item was rejected from the Smarter Balanced Item Pool after the Data Review Meetings.
232	29	1	
233	29	1	
234	30	0	
235	28	2	
240	26	4	
244	21	9	
245	27	3	

Final Result

Of the 33,655 items that required review by this committee per Idaho Code § 33-134, one ELA grade 11 item and one Grade 11 ELA audio clip were determined as having concerns with Bias or Sensitivity according to a 2/3rd committee vote. This item and audio clip have been sent to the Idaho State Board of Education for consideration of rejection from the operational 2015 Grade 11 ELA assessment.

For additional questions, please contact Angela Hemingway, Director of Assessment and Accountability at the SDE at 208-332-6976 or ahemingway@sde.idaho.gov.