



**State of Vermont
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501**

To: VT Special Education Educators, School Guidance Counselors, School Librarians and ESL Teachers

From: Michael Hock, Director of Assessment

Subject: Bias Reading Review for the 2012 Fall NECAP Reading Assessment

Date: May 11, 2011

Once again we are requesting help from the field in supporting the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). On June 29-30, 2011, four representatives from each of the NECAP states, VT, RI, ME and NH will be meeting in Portland, ME for two days to review reading passages. The goal will be to help in selecting passages from which test items will be developed for the Fall 2012 NECAP Reading Assessment. The meeting will take place at the Regency Hotel in the Old Port District in Portland.

This Bias Committee will have four members each from the above NECAP States. They will make recommendations concerning:

- Sensitivity to different cultures, religions, ethnic and socio-economic groups and disabilities
- Balance of gender roles
- Use of positive language, situations and images
- Accessibility issues for diverse populations

All participants will receive mileage from their home to the hotel and back, a \$25.00 dinner stipend for each night and a \$100.00 stipend for their professional advice each day. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on the 29th and 30th. Participants are offered a room and dinner stipend the night of June 28th.

This is an excellent professional development opportunity for all educators. If applicants have any questions or concerns, please contact Mary Ann Minardo, 828-5410 or email MaryAnn.Minardo@state.vt.us.

All applicants need to complete the attached application by June 3rd, 2011. Please send the completed application to Rose Wheeler by fax, email or US mail.

Rose Wheeler
Department of Education
120 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2501
Phone (802)828-3114 Fax (802)828-6563
Email: Rose.Wheeler@state.vt.us

**Vermont NECAP Assessment
Bias Reading Review Application
June 29-30 2011
Portland, ME**

Please use the back of this application if needed.

Name: _____

School: _____

Current Grade Level(s) I work with: _____

School E-Mail: _____

Summer E-Mail: _____

Work phone number: _____ Home phone number: _____

Describe how your experiences in your current and past positions would relate to being on the Bias Reading Review Committee.

Describe your experiences with the NECAP Assessments

Is there anything else you would like us to consider in reviewing your application?

Please fax (828-6563) or e-mail to rose.wheeler@state.vt.us no later than Friday, June 3rd.