



June 15, 2020

Dear Educator,

CAST, in conjunction with the University of Kansas, is designing and evaluating prototype DLM Science testlets and a teacher dashboard as part of the federally funded I-SMART project led by Maryland State Department of Education.

We are seeking educators with experience teaching and assessing students with significant cognitive disabilities to participate in remote interviews to establish desired needs and functionality of a teacher Digital Dashboard to support instructional decision making in science. The usability interpretations gathered from this stage are part of the Innovations in Science Map, Assessment, and Reporting Technologies (I-SMART), a research and development project funded by the US Dept. of Education, Competitive Grants for State Assessments Program.

During Summer 2020, we will conduct a series of usability study sessions in which we will both share and guide you through our current dashboard design and gather your interpretations and ideas about the dashboard's potential usability in your classroom or learning environment. We will conduct two 60-minute sessions that will be spaced 3-7 days apart. These sessions will take place virtually using web conferencing. We will work with all of you to find times that best fit your schedules, and will plan to make multiple time slots available for each session so you can choose the one that works best for you. Lastly, in preparation for the second session, you will be asked to log-in to the dashboard to reorient yourself with the I-SMART Reporting Dashboard via a set of tasks, and think about how its use could help you with instructional decision making in your classroom or learning environment. **We will compensate you a total of \$300 for participating in the full study.**

Please let us know if you're interested in participating by contacting me at bdolan@cast.org. Also, please let us know your experience teaching science to students **without** significant cognitive disabilities who show steady patterns of struggling in science, since our dashboard is being designed to support struggling students in general.

Finally, please provide recommendations for other educators—of students with and without significant cognitive disabilities—who we might include in our usability study.

Thanks in advance,

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