

Distributed Scoring



*Performance scoring
without physical limits*





A comprehensive approach to distributed scoring

PEMSolutions™ (Pearson Educational Measurement Solutions) provides a comprehensive approach to assessment that includes industry-leading capabilities in performance scoring. Our Scoring Network features a combination of professionally trained experts and innovative technologies to deliver dependable and accurate scoring of student written responses.

Scoring performance items is no longer limited by physical “brick and mortar” locations. With our patented technology, the Scoring Network is able to offer at-home scoring, or distributed scoring. We connect educators and other qualified professionals from their home computers to our network where they participate in the same, high-quality processes used in our scoring sites. This distributed model, when implemented with our network of scoring sites, dramatically expands the pool of scorers to help meet the requirements of any project.

Benefits

- **Broader, more diversified scorer pool.** Our database contains more than 26,000 applicants for at-home scoring. Covering every state in the U.S., scoring personnel can be selected to meet project requirements for teaching experience, language ability, education specialty or degree, and geographic and ethnic diversity.
- **High performance.** The flexibility that distributed scoring offers has led to greater retention of experienced scorers. We qualify our scorers by evaluating their Reader Performance Index (RPI), allowing us to retain only the highest performing scorers.
- **Teacher involvement.** When required, teachers now have a workable option to participate in scoring. Freed from commuting, teachers can score in their homes on a schedule that does not interfere with their classroom commitments.
- **Proven quality.** We have successfully implemented distributed scoring and documented the high quality of performance. Attributed to the friendly flexibility of at-home scoring, these scorers have shorter learning curves, higher qualification rates, and greater overall productivity.
- **Expanded peak season capacity.** Scoring projects are no longer constrained by capacity of physical scoring centers during the peak season. The added reserve of personnel that distributed scoring offers allows us to offer solutions to any schedule commitment.

For a general overview, see the brochure titled Performance Scoring.



Comparability Study

PEM has documented the effectiveness of distributed scoring versus our own regional scoring centers. In a study conducted in spring 2005, a project with identical items and rubrics scored with both distributed and on-site scorers, the distributed scorers' performance rated higher in all major categories: inter-reader reliability, productivity, and validity. PEM employs a team of research professionals, combining numerous years of experience in assessment practice and theory, and continues to gather evidence of comparability as part of our ongoing research effort.

Added Security

The Scoring Network operates under Secure Socket Layer (SSL) security at log in, which is an industry standard. All scorers are assigned a secure default log in based on a combination that includes part of the scorer's Social Security Number. All papers are distributed anonymously, with no way for a scorer to link a student with a paper. Scorers are trained on security protocols and have all signed confidentiality statements.

Scorer Recruitment

PEM continuously recruits scoring candidates, who are then rigorously screened through analysis of their application data and phone interview, along with a signed document verifying their credentials. We maintain a database of scorer qualifications and availability to match scorers to the requirements of a project.

After they qualify, every scorer is "computer certified" to check their home setup. Because of the superior design of the Scoring Network, most new computers meet the requirements for setup and Internet connectivity. As an added precaution, we pre-test every setup prior to the start of a project so scorers are ready to go.

Scorer Diversity and Skill Sets

When programs have specific requirements for scorers' demographics, our database of scorers offers unparalleled diversity. With 26,000 applicants nationwide, the database covers every state, in both rural and urban areas. With our nationwide recruitment, we are able to hire scorers with very specific skill sets, including:

- Diverse language skills
- Greater variety of backgrounds and experience, including teachers, administrators, and other degreed professionals and retirees
- Higher levels of subject matter expertise for all disciplines (e.g., writing, reading, math, and science)
- Easily targeted certifications or specific credentials
- Readily available scorers with experience and proven performance



Training and Communication

In a distributed scoring model, communication is vital in order to manage the project's schedule as well as its performance. Built into the Scoring Network are a variety of tools that connect scorers to project leaders and other helpful resources.

Online Application	Includes reader requirement, dates, and hours of operation.
Online Scheduler	Allows scorers to accept jobs and schedule their work hours.
Scorer Support	Provides a toll-free number to connect to service representatives, content experts, technical experts, and human resources staff. Help is available up to 16 hours a day, seven days a week during live scoring.
Online Newsletter	Distributes important updates via e-mail.
Scoring Website	Provides secure, password-protected access to the scoring system and other non-public information, while creating a sense of community and connectedness.
E-Mail	Communicates important announcements and upcoming events and deadlines.
Messaging	Provides real-time communication for feedback and discussion.
GroupCast	Leaves an automated phone message as reminders for key project milestones and information.
Self-Monitoring	Allows scorers to check the progress of their own performance.
Online Surveys	Gathers scorer feedback for our continuous improvement process.

The Scoring Network provides a rigorous training protocol, developed by experienced scoring directors, to qualified scoring candidates and offers consistency and predictability to all projects. Training is delivered in a modular format, which follows the scorer's learning process, with interactivity to check understanding and progress.

Getting Started	Includes an introduction to Pearson, the project, and the scoring system.
Scoring Methodology	Educates scorers on the philosophy of scoring, scoring vs. grading, and reader bias.
Scoring the Project	Provides project-specific rubrics and anchor papers.
Practice and Qualification	Tests scorers on the retention of the training.
Before You Score	Presents advanced training on the scoring system and self-monitoring tools.

To learn how to put PEMSolutions distributed scoring to work for you, visit www.PEMSolutions.com or call 1-800-627-0365.