

**KENTUCKY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (KTAC)**

Minutes of the June 12-13, 2024 meeting

**ATTENDANCE**

**Kentucky Technical Advisory Committee (KTAC) Members:** Corinne Huggins-Manley, Pete Goldschmidt, Phoebe Winter, Elena Diaz-Bilello, Suzanne Lane

**KTAC MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE):** Robin Kinney, Kevin Hill, Mike Prater, Helen Jones, Rhonda Sims

**KDE GUESTS:**

EdMeasure: Bill Auty

Center for Assessment: Brian Gong, Laura Pinsonneault

Pearson: Bevin Brandeberry

**SUMMARY**

The Kentucky Technical Advisory Committee (KTAC) provided advice to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) regarding the state's assessment and accountability programs, including science assessment development and blueprint alignment; a study of pre-equating the test administration forms; review of the Common Entry Kindergarten Screener (K-Screen), and a review of "diagnostic assessments" in terms of issues and what other states are doing. In addition, the technical documentation for the assessment program was reviewed, and the plans for validity studies and other analyses was discussed. The accountability system results were reviewed. KTAC approved the minutes from the March 28, 2024 meeting, set dates for future meetings, and voted on recommendations from the current meeting.

**Agenda Item: Welcome and Introductions**

Presenters: Kevin Hill, Robin Kinney, Interim Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)

Summary of discussion: Hill opened the meeting at 8:30am. He described staffing and attendance plans for the KTAC meeting. Hill also noted that test administration had recently completed with 1.5 million tests administered without issue. He then introduced Commissioner Robin Kinney. Commissioner Kinney welcomed the KTAC members, expressed gratitude for the contributions of the KTAC members and KDE staff. She noted it is an exciting time with the Kentucky United We Learn Council's work on innovative assessment and accountability.

Hill reviewed the open meeting requirements, including that KTAC recommendations need to be certified by a formal vote. This enables KDE to point to official KTAC recommendations rather than general discussion notes. Hill reviewed the process for generating and approving KTAC recommendations.

Hill introduced Brian Gong and Laura Pinsonnault, with the Center for Assessment, who facilitate the KTAC meetings. They introduced themselves, and then each KTAC member introduced her/himself. Other presenters would introduce themselves prior to each agenda item.

### **Agenda Item: Review Agenda and Approve Minutes from March 28 Meeting**

Presenter: Brian Gong, Center for Assessment

Summary of Discussion: Gong presented the main topics of the draft agenda. KTAC members had no suggestions to modify the agenda. Gong reminded KTAC members they had received the draft minutes of the March 28, 2024 meeting previously. Phoebe Winter moved to approve the minutes. Suzanne Lane seconded. There were no suggested changes.

Feedback/Action: The minutes of the March 28, 2024 KTAC meeting were approved unanimously by the KTAC members.

### **Agenda Item: KDE Update**

Presenter: Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Sims also welcomed the group and noted it was the first in-person meeting for KTAC. Sims summarized recent legislative requirements pertaining to assessment and accountability. She also highlighted the upcoming role of the KUWL Council in developing and vetting possible changes to assessment and accountability. Jennifer Stafford mentioned that the KUWL Council work groups and standing committees and KDE are working on prototypes that will be shared with various groups over the next several months. Sims noted that Dr. Robbie Fletcher will begin as Commissioner of Education on July 1.

Feedback/Action: None—informative only.

### **Agenda Item: Science Item Development and Blueprint Alignment**

Presenters: Sharon Staples, Senior Test Development Manager; Lui Ho, Lead Psychometrician; Bevin Brandenberry, Content Development Manager—Science, Pearson

Summary of Discussion:

Brandenberry reviewed the goals for the science test redesign and noted what was staying the same and what was changing. She presented a sample standalone item illustrating the planned approach to broaden content coverage. KTAC members asked, and Brandenberry responded to questions regarding alignment, item presentation, reading load metrics and evidence, and relation of the example to distribution in a form of other item types. KTAC asked whether the state has a uniform science curriculum; KDE responded no, there is a wide variety of curricula across districts.

Brandenberry presented the proposed annual test designs and schedule for developing items through Spring 2027. KTAC members asked about analyses supporting comparability of scores in test blueprint and scaling, especially with incomplete domain sampling approach. Likun Hou cited dimensionality checks and internal anchor equating

design. In response to a KTAC question about how individual scores and subscores were used, KDE responded that scores and subscores were intended to be used to inform instruction, not high-stakes decisions such as promotion. KTAC discussed the current practice of having two forms, including one being an accommodated form, and the implications for construct representation, comparability, and scaling.

Feedback/Action: KTAC recommended several actions, including specific studies, regarding item, cluster, and form characteristics; form design; and equating design to support the validity and comparability of the science assessment scores and interpretations, while trying to meet the additional goals, including of shortening the test.

### **Agenda Item: Pre-Equating Study**

Presenter: Likun Hou, Senior Research Scientist, Pearson

Summary of Discussion: KDE is interested in returning assessment results more quickly, and so has asked its contractor to analyze whether pre-equating forms would be feasible and appropriate. In previous meetings KTAC discussed initial designs for studying the feasibility of pre-equating, possible analytical procedures, data specifications, and evaluation criteria. Hou presented an update of the design of the pre-equating study, the data, and the procedures proposed for evaluating the pre-equating solution. KTAC members asked about how well the results of the pre-equating using simulated data provided a check of the proposed procedures, especially criteria for indicating adequate item and test fit. KTAC members suggested some additional information and analyses, including checking what programs in other states have used.

Feedback/Action: KTAC recommended several additional analyses, criteria, and evaluative procedures for Pearson and KDE to consider which would help ensure the pre-equating study is as informative as possible.

### **Agenda Item: Kentucky Summative Assessment Technical Manual**

Presenter: Likun Hou, Senior Research Scientist, Pearson

Summary of Discussion: Hou reviewed the purpose and organization of the technical manual for reading, writing, mathematics, social studies, and science. These are contained in a single technical manual. A yearbook is also produced, which contains test performance results in the form of performance statistics and test measurement characteristics for the most recent operationally administered assessment to supplement the technical manual. The KTAC members reviewed each section of the technical manual and associated yearbook, noting strengths and offering comments for possible improvement.

Feedback/Action: KTAC members noted several strengths of the technical manual, and provided specific recommendations for each section of the technical manual. They recommend that KDE and Pearson work together to incorporate these recommendations as appropriate.

## **Agenda Item: Discussion to Inform Analyses of Accountability System Results**

Presenters: Brian Gong and Laura Pinsonneault, Center for Assessment

Summary of discussion: Gong introduced the background context for Kentucky's recently implemented school accountability system. He identified several types of analyses that might be useful to understand and evaluate the accountability system. These included descriptive of outcomes; technical characteristics; and program evaluation of implementation, impact, and acceptability. Gong presented examples of three of the types of analyses. KTAC members commented on the general work of evaluating Kentucky's accountability system, noting this is uncommon among states, but desirable to do.

Feedback/Action: KTAC encouraged KDE to continue with evaluation of the quality of the state's accountability system and documentation of its effects. KTAC members offered several specific suggestions on how to proceed in terms of approaches, evaluative frameworks, and specific analyses.

## **Agenda Item: Set Future meeting dates**

Presenters: Brian Gong and Laura Pinsonneault, Center for Assessment

Summary of discussion: KTAC members agreed to review the recommendations from day 2 in the morning of the second day. KTAC also discussed possible future meeting dates.

Feedback/Action: KTAC reviewed and unanimously approved the recommendations from the first day of the KTAC meeting. The group also discussed future meeting dates.

- The group discussed possible dates for a fall meeting. Originally October 8<sup>th</sup> was scheduled but this needs to be moved. Hold for a virtual meeting on October 15, 2024, from 11am-5pm ET.
  - Backup: hold Tuesday 10/15 and 10/16 for in-person
- Winter KTAC meeting: Tuesday, January 28, 2025, virtual meeting 11am-5pm ET
- For the next in-person meeting, KTAC preference is to meet after assessment and accountability results are available.

## **Agenda Item: Adjourn Day 1**

Phoebe Winter motioned to adjourn at 4:30pm. Elena Diaz-Bilello seconded. Unanimous vote to adjourn.

## **Day 2, June 13, 2024**

### **Agenda Item: Greeting and Introductions**

Presenter: Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of discussion: Sims called the meeting to order at 8:30am, welcomed those in attendance, and reviewed the open meetings requirements.

Feedback/Action: None – informational only.

### **Agenda Item: Review Agenda**

Presenter: Brian Gong, Senior Associate, The Center for Assessment

Summary of discussion: Gong reviewed the agenda, including reviewing and approving the recommendations from the first day of the meeting at the start of the meeting. The KTAC agreed to a working lunch in order to adjourn earlier.

Feedback/Action: KTAC agreed to the agenda, with the suggested modifications.

### **Agenda Item: Approve Day 1 Recommendations**

Presenters: Brian Gong and Laura Pinsonnault, Center for Assessment

Summary of discussion: Pinsonnault and Gong shared draft day 1 recommendations with the group to review. KTAC members suggested some edits to the recommendations.

Feedback/Action: Winter moved to approve the recommendations. Lane seconded. The recommendations were approved unanimously.

### **Agenda Item: Review of the HumRRO 2024-2026 Biennial Plan**

Presenters: Art Thacker, Chief Scientist, and Emily Dickinson, Principal Scientist; HumRRO

Summary of discussion: Thacker and Dickinson presented the context of HumRRO's biennial work plan, and summarized each of the main activities, inviting KTAC comments. The future activities planned for 2024-2026 include: CTE end of program assessment, validity research (school practices study), consistency across measures, and accountability research (standards validation, case studies of schools that have maintained upward progress).

Feedback/Action: KTAC supports KDE having this type of research capacity to support validation and improvement. KTAC members gave suggestions, including regarding the validity framework, clarifying the research questions, possible study enhancements, and encouragement to KDE to coordinate analyses and documentation across the various efforts and contractors.

### **Agenda Item: Common Entry Kindergarten Screener (K-Screen)**

Presenters: Sallie Lawrence, Sr. Program Manager, Government Relations; Dr. Laurie Davis, Associate Vice President, Psychometrics; and Jenny Hanson, Director, Product Management and Strategy; Curriculum Associates

Summary of discussion: Lawrence, Davis, and Hanson provided the history of the BRIGANCE assessment and associated assessment tools and instructional materials, which Kentucky has required as a common screener for entering kindergarten students for several years. They reviewed aspects of the BRIGANCE program and responded to KTAC questions, including regarding purpose, use by teachers, instructional connections, technical documentation, the research base for the assessment, implementation in Kentucky schools, and evidence of the effectiveness of the assessment's use.

Feedback/Action: KTAC recommended several specific expansions of validity, reliability, fairness, and utility evidence, particularly within Kentucky's context in addition to the other studies conducted by the publisher.

### **Agenda Item: Scan of State Efforts to Provide Instructionally Supportive Assessments**

Presenters: Brian Gong and Laura Pinsonneault, Center for Assessment

Summary of discussion: Gong and Pinsonneault led a discussion of a background paper focused on how other states' efforts to provide "instructionally supportive" assessments, including enhanced subscores, example items, through-year assessments, and screeners provided by the state, and programs sponsored by state departments of education to inform district and school selection and provision of non-state summative assessments. KTAC members shared their knowledge of what is and has been done by states to support more instructionally supportive assessments, and KTAC's views of the strengths, limitations, and issues to be aware of.

Feedback/Action: KTAC members cautioned that while many states have been interested in this topic, it has been very challenged to develop for conceptual and technical reasons, and to implement because of logistical reasons. KTAC members provided some examples of promising approaches and programs, and provided specific advice on some ways to define, develop, and evaluate state-level efforts to support assessments that support instructional actions.

### **Agenda Item: Recommendations and Wrap Up**

Presenters: Brian Gong and Laura Pinsonnault, Center for Assessment

Summary of discussion: Pinsonnault and Gong presented the draft recommendations from the second day of the KTAC meeting. KTAC members discussed and suggested revisions.

Feedback/Action: Goldschmidt moved to approve the recommendations as revised. Winter seconded. The KTAC members unanimously approved the recommendations for the second day of the KTAC meeting.

At 1:00pm Diaz-Bilello moved to adjourn the meeting. Goldschmidt seconded. The KTAC members unanimously approved adjournment.