



## Kentucky Technical Advisory Committee (KTAC)

JUNE 22, 2022

### ATTENDANCE:

**KTAC MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elena Diaz-Bilello, Pete Goldschmidt, Corinne Huggins-Manley, Suzanne Lane, Phoebe Winter

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE) MEMBERS PRESENT:** Michael Hackworth, Kevin Hill, Helen Jones, Kevin O’Hair, Ben Riley, Rhonda Sims, Jennifer Stafford, John Wickizer

**KDE GUESTS PRESENT:** Bill Auty, Brian Gong, Art Thacker, Gertrudes Velasquez, Chris Domaleski, Laura Pinsonneault

**KTAC MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

### SUMMARY:

The Kentucky Technical Advisory Committee (KTAC) provided advice to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) regarding the biennial research agenda for HumRRO, supporting the operational quality, validity, and impact of Kentucky’s assessment and accountability programs. KTAC members also provided advice to KDE regarding the proposed accountability performance standard setting plan by the Center for Assessment to support implementation of Kentucky’s accountability system in 2022.

**Agenda Item:** Welcome and Introductions

**Presenter:** Michael Hackworth, Policy Advisor, Office of Assessment and Accountability, KDE

**Summary of Discussion:** Hackworth welcomed the KTAC members and presenters. He introduced the presenters and KTAC members and reviewed the procedures for complying with Kentucky’s open meetings requirements.

**Agenda Item:** Review Agenda and Approve Minutes from March 14, 2022

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

**Summary of Discussion:** Gong reviewed the proposed agenda; there were no questions or suggestions. Gong noted the KTAC members had received draft minutes from the March 2022 meeting for their review and asked if there were any suggested corrections or modifications. The KTAC members had no suggested changes. Pete Goldschmidt moved that the minutes be approved without change; Suzanne Lane seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

**Agenda Item:** 2022-2024 Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO) Annual Research Plan

**Presenter:** Art Thacker, Principal Scientist, HumRRO

**Summary of Discussion:** Thacker summarized the process for developing and approving the Biennial Research Plan, which is legislatively required. Thacker then summarized the research areas included in the plan:

- Replicate summative assessment scaling and equating for the regular assessment, and evaluate that the processing occurs in an efficient way
- Replicate the summative alternate assessment scaling and equating
- Conduct research on the Career and Technical Education (CTE) End of Program assessment
- Support development and research of the Quality School Climate and Safety survey
- Conduct validity research studies in support of peer review and evolving assessment system
- Analyze the statistical consistency among and between state assessment and outside measures
- Analyzed student classification accuracy (annually)
- Analyze school classification accuracy (biannually)
- Conduct research and analyses in support of the accountability system – this year, conduct alignment studies of both Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) and the Alternate KSA

For each research area, Thacker provided an overview of proposed research studies, including some salient details, such as the focus for specific analyses, the variables that were to be analyzed, the methods to be used and other context.

**Feedback:** The KTAC members noted the commitment of KDE to sponsoring a robust research agenda, and the breadth of studies summarized by HumRRO. The KTAC members universally suggested it would be very helpful for HumRRO to have a framework for the validity studies that would provide a context for the studies individually and collectively. It is important for KDE and HumRRO to be able to see how the research needs are being systematically addressed over time, with an extensive, complex, and evolving set of topics and policy priorities. A framework would support planning, coordination, evaluation, and communication about the research, collectively and for individual studies, both for KDE, its research agenda contractor(s) and other audiences such as the KTAC.

The research agenda framework should include the specific claims to be supported, the evidence needed to support the claims, what has already been collected or established, what research might be done, and the priorities. Cross-cutting implications of one area of research for other important topics might also be noted. Validity research for assessments might profit

from setting up a common approach, such as a focus on interpretive use arguments and the four kinds of evidence discussed in the Joint Standards, and other appropriate evidence. The framework could then constitute the validity argument for the Kentucky assessment program. Research for other areas, such as accountability, might profit from also setting up a common approach, such as a program evaluation lens focused through a theory of action, that might inform questions about design, implementation, and impact.

KTAC members also provided specific suggestions for several of the studies.

**Follow-up Required:** KDE and HumRRO should consult how much to prioritize developing the suggested research frameworks, which go beyond the current statutory requirements. As research studies are presented to the KTAC in the future—either in planning or reporting stages—KTAC would appreciate having provided with the specific studies the types of context described with the framework. KTAC acknowledges that several of the studies will likely be incorporated into assessment program technical manuals and other regular produced documents, rather than being presented as stand-alone studies, which will also provide needed context. KTAC is willing to review major technical documents for technical adequacy.

#### **Agenda Item:** Accountability Standard Setting

**Presenters:** Brian Gong, Senior Associate, and Chris Domaleski, Associate Director, Center for Assessment

**Summary of Discussion:** Gong presented the legislative and assessment changes that require setting performance standards for Kentucky’s new accountability system in 2022, noting it will include status only; change will be added in 2023 and will require a new standard setting. In response to KTAC member questions, Jennifer Stafford, director of the Division of Assessment and Accountability Support in the Office of Assessment and Accountability at KDE provided additional detail about legislative considerations and rationale. Domaleski presented the procedures for setting the accountability performance standards, which paralleled general procedures for setting performance standards for student achievement levels, including formulating Indicator and School Performance Level Descriptors, convening a broadly representative standard setting panel, and performing a series of judgments about cutscores, supported by ordered profiles of performance, individual panelist reflection, group discussion, and consideration of impact data.

**Feedback:** The KTAC supported the proposed approach to setting performance standards for the Kentucky accountability system as a reasonable approach, but pointed out, through their questions and comments, the need for additional specification of procedures and rationales. KTAC members encouraged additional specification of criteria for selecting panel members; how performance profiles will be selected for consideration in the standard setting; how impact and other comparative data will be contextualized given recent school disruptions; and how vertical articulation will be moderated. KTAC members also noted how complex the standard setting task is cognitively and suggested some ways standard setting might be scaffolded to help make the task more accessible.

**Follow-up Required:** The accountability standard setting report will include the procedures used, including specification of the issues raised by the KTAC. The draft report will be presented for KTAC review.

**Agenda Item:** 2023 KTAC Meeting Dates

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

**Summary of Discussion:** Nov. 1, 2022 was confirmed as the next KTAC meeting date. Tentative dates for additional future KTAC meetings were set for Feb. 14, 2023, June 13, 2023, and Oct. 17-18, 2023. Confirming these dates will be an agenda item at the November 2022 KTAC meeting. Future KTAC meeting dates should be set a year in advance.

**Feedback:** None.

**Follow-up Required:** KDE should confirm availability of contractors and others who may need to be present in the proposed KTAC meetings. The draft meeting dates will be confirmed at the November 2022 KTAC meeting.

**Agenda Item:** Summary, Next Steps, and Adjournment

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

**Summary of Discussion:** Draft minutes will be circulated to KTAC members and provided to KDE within a week of the June 22, 2022 meeting.