

SUMMARY MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT KTAC MEETING,  
SCHEDULED FOR June 12, 2024



**Kentucky Technical Advisory Committee**

Minutes of the March 28, 2024 meeting

**DRAFT**

**ATTENDANCE**

KENTUCKY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (KTAC): Elena Diaz-Bilello, Pete Goldschmidt, Corinne Huggins-Manley, Suzanne Lane, Phoebe Winter

KTAC MEMBERS ABSENT: None

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE): Kevin O’Hair, Ben Riley, Rhonda Sims... [**\*\*KDE please complete**]

KDE GUESTS:

EdMeasure: Bill Auty

Center for Assessment: Brian Gong

Pearson: Likun Hou, Sharon Staples, Adrienne Simmons, Llana Williams, Jane Toussant, Steven Veit.

University of Kentucky: Karen Guettler, Jacqueline Kearns, Jacqueline Norman

**SUMMARY**

The Kentucky Technical Advisory Committee (KTAC) provided advice to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) regarding the state’s alternate assessment program; item development plans for reading, writing, mathematics, and science; and preparations for considering pre-equating Kentucky’s annual assessments in the future. The KTAC also set future meeting dates.

**Agenda Item: Welcome and Introductions**

Presenters: Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner, and Kevin O’Hair, Academic Program Manager, Office of Assessment and Accountability, KDE

Summary of Discussion: Sims started the meeting at 12:30pm (Eastern). Sims welcomed the KTAC members, presenters, and those who may have joined via the live stream. Sims

noted that Dr. Robbie Fletcher had been announced as the Kentucky Commissioner of Education designate by the Kentucky State Board of Education, subject to confirmation by the Kentucky Senate. Sims introduced Kevin O’Hair, Academic Program Manager, who reviewed the background of the establishment of the KTAC, and the procedures for complying with Kentucky’s open meetings requirement. O’Hair introduced Brian Gong, Center for Assessment, who facilitates the KTAC meetings, to lead the introduction of KTAC members; presenters would introduce themselves prior to each agenda item. Gong introduced himself and at his request, each KTAC member introduced her/himself.

**Agenda Item: Review Agenda and Approve Minutes from January 17-18, 2024 KTAC 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 previously. Phoebe Winter moved to approve the minutes. Suzanne Lane seconded. There were no suggestions to amend the draft minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously by the KTAC members.

Feedback/Action: The minutes of the January 17-18, 2024 KTAC meeting were approved by KTAC.

**Agenda Item: Alternate Kentucky State Assessment (AKSA)**

Presenters: Jacqueline Kearns, Jacqueline Norman, Karen Guettler, University of Kentucky (UK)

Summary of Discussion: The UK staff described the purpose for the Alternate Kentucky State Assessment (AKSA), and the theory of action for the assessment program. They described the characteristics of the population served of students with severe cognitive disabilities (2021 data), including demographics as reflected by the Learner Characteristics Inventory (2022 data). KTAC members asked about most recent data, relationship with ELLs, and changes over time.

The UK staff described the AKSA Attainment Task design and development process, including accommodations, “supplemental materials,” item reviews, and the upcoming 2023-24 field testing. The Postsecondary Readiness assessment design was also described. KTAC members asked about the unit for randomizing the field test forms, and who decided how the “supplemental materials” would be incorporated into the assessment. KTAC members also asked what evidence was gathered to support claims of appropriate administration and response recording.

The UK staff described the systems developed to record relevant data for the AKSA, and shared links for the technical manual and other resources.

Feedback: KTAC recommended that KDE work with its UK partners to address the following to strengthen the Alternate Assessment:

- KDE and/or its partners should maintain current data about students who qualify for Alternate Assessments, and integrate as necessary to support informed use
- Publish current additions of the technical manual
  - Integrate the validity evaluation argument with the theory of action throughout the technical manual chapters, including a summary at the end
- Future KTAC meetings those responsible for psychometric support for the alternate assessment should be available.
- Analyze inclusion and participation in the Alternate Assessment, including:
  - ELL population coherent with WIDA ACCESS and ELL in general population, over time
  - Homebound/irregular attendance participation rate
  - Proportional representation by significant student groups
- Gather and analyze evidence to expand validation of the theory of action, including especially key points that might contribute to increased student performance over time
- Gather evidence to support the validity of using data collected in fall and spring to produce a cumulative score in spring
  - Evidence regarding instructional opportunities to learn assessed content in the assessment windows
  - Evidence of score reliability across the two windows, and implications for score comparability and claims
- Include in technical documentation quality control procedures, including training, item development/review, assessment administration fidelity
- For the 2023-2024 field test, provide evidence that the student-level item statistics are representative of the population intended to be generalized to, especially since the explicit randomization controls took place at the district/school levels, rather than at the student level
- Clarify terminology around “supplemental materials”—the materials are not optional or discretionary, but are required, additional materials that are referenced rather than printed in-line with the assessment directions, etc.
- Ideally, evidence in addition to review judgments would be gathered over time to support the construct validity of variations, including accommodations and alternate representational materials/items
- At future TAC meeting, provide explanation and evidence supporting scoring method and quality, both for the Attainment Task assessment and the College/Career Readiness Assessment

## **Agenda Item: Assessment Item Development**

Presenter: Sharon Staples, Senior Test Development Manager, Pearson

Summary of Discussion: Sharon Staples summarized the test development activity taking place this year to develop several hundred items by summer 2024 in content areas of reading, writing, editing and mechanics, and science. Staples described the targeting of items to be developed in terms of expanding the item bank, and possible proportion of items in the bank by test blueprint content categories. Additional attention was given to Science, where the item development was being done in conjunction with a change in item specification and test blueprints (fewer clusters, more discrete item sets). KTAC members asked several questions regarding the distribution of items being developed in relation to the test blueprints, as well as forecasting the robust sufficiency of the item bank to support multiple operational test administrations/forms.

Feedback/action items: KTAC recommended that KDE work with Pearson to address the following:

- Test blueprints and associated analyses of blueprint match should reflect the more detailed dimensions that are used in the test specifications to assemble operational tests, e.g., dimensions of Reading skills/process by domains, 3-dimensions of science; and intended uses of various item types
  - If possible, KDE arrange for the KTAC to review confidential materials (e.g., detailed test blueprints) and have associated conversations.
- Summary tables of item blueprint-to-bank match should include information to support intended interpretations, e.g., sufficiency of item bank to support number of operational test forms/administrations
- At future TAC meeting, review scoring and associated item development for Writing on Demand (do items support intended differentiations in scoring)
- Provide claims and evidence regarding relationships between science main and dependent sets

## **Agenda Item: Inclusion of New Items While Maintaining the Scale**

Presenter: Bill Auty, EdMeasure

Summary of Discussion: Bill Auty, EdMeasure, provided an overview of two issues to be discussed in the upcoming KTAC meeting: 1) how new items and modified test blueprints (e.g., in science) can be incorporated in the operational assessment and KDE be able to maintain the same scale and trend, and 2) how KDE and contractor partners can move towards pre-equating, as discussed in the previous KTAC meeting. Likun Hou, Psychometrician, Pearson, described some procedures and criteria for evaluating item and scale stability. KTAC members asked for additional information to help evaluate the

adequacy of the new item development efforts, and for specific procedures for deciding between the pre- and post-equated results.

Feedback/action items: KTAC recommended that KDE work with Pearson to address the following:

- Summarize the changes in item and test specifications, and implications for claims of comparability (particularly science, which has the largest and most changes, including sets/stand-alone; different proportions of item types)
- Specify additional studies of pre-equating: specific methods, criteria, data – how to decide ahead of time what will be used to decide how to evaluate the analyses’ results
  - Analyze probable reasons why items show drift, individually and as groups
  - Attend to 1/24 KTAC recommendations including representative sampling
- Provide additional information on automated scoring to support more rapid scoring and reporting, along with pre-equating

### **Agenda Item: Summary, Next Steps**

Presenter: Brian Gong

Summary of Discussion: Gong presented draft recommendations for KTAC members’ review. Several changes were made in accordance with KTAC members’ suggestions. KDE indicated that KTAC recommendations may need to be voted on in formal approval; if so, that will be arranged for the upcoming KTAC meeting. Gong confirmed the dates for the next KTAC meetings.

Feedback/action items: The draft recommendations as reviewed by KTAC were incorporated in the draft minutes under each agenda topic. Future KTAC meeting dates were set for:

- June 12-13, 2024, in person in Kentucky
- October 8, 2024, 11:00-5:00pm (Eastern)

### **Adjourn**

Pete Goldschmidt moved to adjourn the KTAC meeting. Suzanne Lane seconded the motion. The KTAC members approved unanimously. The KTAC meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.