



Measuring Up! Discussion Guide

Parents

Measuring Up! is a project conducted by a collaborative youth-led team with the purpose of uncovering the opinions and feelings that Kentucky students have about their current systems of measurement, assessment, and accountability. Throughout this study, our team conducted two roundtables and seven supplementary interviews across a diverse range of students to gain a better understanding of the Kentucky student experience. We spoke to students ranging from fifth grade through graduated seniors and asked them about their personal experiences with Kentucky's measurement, assessment, and accountability systems. Our team discovered that students yearn to receive instruction on concepts that would carry them throughout the rest of their lives, want to have more options that fit alternative post-secondary paths, and long to have consistency in their accountability to ensure a more equitable education experience. Above all, every student that participated in our study wanted their voice to be heard and valued. For this exercise, read the quotes we gathered from Kentucky students, and respond to the prompts as you reflect on your experiences in school, both as a former student yourself and as you are involved as a parent now.

Student Quotes

"I think our education system is really good at pushing people towards college, community college, interning programs, but I think that anything that makes the person or the student happy I feel like they're actually accomplishing in life. They should really go after that because at the end of the day we want to be able to have happy, productive citizens that are concerned with making a difference in this world."

-Latino male high school senior from Ohio County

"I've started trying to prep for the ACT, which I'm going to take my junior year, and finding time for that has been very, very difficult. I think I'm going to be even more busy my junior year, so I don't know quite how I'm going to be able to manage time with that. It's gotten pretty strenuous, I guess."

-White male sophomore from Rowan County

"I am motivated because I want to feel proud when I get a good grade."

-White female 5th grader from Madison County

Student Quotes

"If each teacher chose to set aside some time, whether it's just five or 10 minute conferences to do this [talk with students about their grades] with students, I feel like they'll be more proud of their grade because it's something that they know they worked for, it's not just something that they feel like, oh, I got a A, it doesn't matter, or I can't do anything about this C or D."

-Black female college freshman from Jefferson County

"Being in an atmosphere that rewards certain individuals for getting one point higher than you, it's hard. It's really hard. I don't think it necessarily motivates me more than hurts."

-African American female high school senior from Fayette County

"I think that students should be taught introspectiveness, how to be reflective, definitely treating other people with respect, skills that translate throughout all facets of life"

-White male high school sophomore from Corbin
Independent

Discussion Questions

- What do we want our kids to gain from going to school?
- Do the current grading and testing systems reflect what is important in student learning? Why or why not?
- Do you have high expectations for your child? How have you seen those expectations impact their performance?
- Do you feel like you have a voice in the conversation about standardized testing and grading?
- How can parents develop a household culture around tests and grading that is conducive to growth and learning?