



Measuring Up! Discussion Guide

School and Teacher Leaders

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 provided and respond to the discussion prompts as you reflect on your own experiences in school, in student, teacher, or other school leadership capacities.

Student Quotes

"So for me personally, I put a lot of pressure on myself. So I felt like this isn't going to be for a grade, so I felt better than I would have taking a regular test. But I definitely still was a little stressed about it because I was like, "Oh, my principal is going to be looking at these. All of my teachers will be looking at these." And it won't affect my grade, but it's still, everyone's going to look at it. So I was very definitely stressed."

- Female 8th grader from Boone County

"They need to teach more life skills ... instead of math... because I don't have any of the FACS [Family and Consumer Sciences] classes ... I haven't had any in high school so far."

-Biracial female high school junior

"But being constantly told that you got to do well on your tests, you got to do well on those standardized tests, can bring a burden to a lot of students that don't perform as well, or who are not good test takers. Not everybody can sit down and take a standardized test and ace it. It's just that's not how it works."

-Latino male high school senior from Ohio County

Student Quotes

"I think that even though our school tried, attempted to implement a school-wide policy, various teachers still implemented their own rules in their classrooms, which left things very confusing for the students, and we didn't know whether to follow school policies or class policies, and that was just very difficult to handle."

- African American female high school senior from Fayette County

"So, I would have made a school-wide rule for what counts as late, and what do you do if you've wifi issues, stuff like that. Just more universal"

-White female high school junior from Frankfort Independent

Discussion Questions

- How should students who are not college-oriented be better supported in secondary schools across Kentucky?
- How would you like to implement social/emotional skills into our school curriculum?
- What qualities should grades reflect in a student? How can the current grading system be changed to measure these?
- How can COVID-induced learning loss be addressed
- Would this warrant any changes in the grading and testing policies at our institution?
- How can we develop an environment in our schools and classrooms that is conducive to growth and learning?