What is measurement?

Measurement is the science of analyzing or studying what students need to know, how they need to learn it, and how they show what they have learned. Everything from examining the classes that schools offer to the methods that teachers use in their classroom can be examples of measurement. Preparing students for the real world, making sure they are getting exposed to a wide variety of content, and appropriately assessing everything that they are learning are all important aspects of educational measurement.

What are Kentucky students saying about measurement?

“Well, they should be learning something interesting too I feel. Some things I have to do, I'm not really interested in and it's not really fun because I'm not interested in it and stuff.”- Female sixth grader from Boone County

“Also, the social side, how to build your interpersonal skills and how to just be self-aware, that's something ... I had a relationships class and that helped it, but that started a journey for me that's probably been more helpful for me than anything” - Black female college freshman from Jefferson County
What is assessment?

The first thing that likely comes to mind when Kentucky students, teachers, and parents hear the word assessment is KPREP. This state-normed test is taken by public school students, starting in third grade, every year in order to measure their mastery of the Kentucky Academic Standards. The 2021-22 school year marks the transition from Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (KPREP) to the Kentucky Summative Assessment (KAS). Along with state level testing for K-12 students, there are several nationally-normed tests that students take. Two of the more notable assessments are the American College Test (ACT) and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). These tests are typically taken in high school and used for post-secondary admissions. Assessment also takes place at the classroom level. There are two primary categories of assessment- formative and summative. Formative assessments measure how a student is learning as the learning is occurring and summative assessments measure what a student has learned when the learning has ended. Assessment can take many forms and serve many purposes but they all are centered around measuring student learning.

What are Kentucky students saying about assessment?

“I feel like someone can be really smart, but just a horrible test taker. And I feel like it doesn't accurately show the knowledge and how intelligent a student is, because I know people that are really bad test takers, but they're very bright and intelligent.” - African American female high school senior from Fayette County

“Yeah. I wish that... they wouldn't have to push the test so hard on us...our whole identity is not a test.” - White female high school junior from Frankfort Independent
What is accountability?

At its core, accountability is a system of feedback. On the classroom level, it looks like teachers giving students feedback and grades on their work. At the state level, it can include things like accountability rankings and interpretation of KPREP- or what is now called the Kentucky Summative Assessment (KAS)- scores. Ideally, accountability creates a system of checks and balances that help our education system function the best for all stakeholders. Each stakeholder contributes something to be measured and provides a form of feedback to the other stakeholders.

What are Kentucky students saying about accountability?

“Every student has their own way of learning. Some people are visual learners. Some people can write notes, look at a PowerPoint, write notes, and learn like that. Some people you have to sit down with them, break things down, explain it thoroughly two or three times, give examples, apply it, and that's okay, because everybody, all of our brains are wired differently.” - Latino male high school senior from Ohio County

“Grades, and standardized testing, and all these state required things we have to do, there's no other options available right now. So, it's all we have, but there's so much room for improvement that it just seems like we should just create an entirely different system, but I feel like we're always going to have this base initially about competing against someone, making sure you're somehow intellectually better, you're better than someone, when it could be a system based on trying to always improve on what you already can do.” - African American female high school senior from Fayette County