

Achieve Student Assessment Committee Summit

Monday, June 8 and Tuesday, June 9

Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

+ Question:

What recommendations do you have for strengthening or streamlining the assessment program in the Knox County Schools?

Elementary Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

+ Seven Areas of Thought

- + Equal Technology Needed and Challenges to Validity are Raised
- + Teachers Need to be Involved in Decision Making
- + Testing Should not Impact Teacher Evaluations OR Multiple Data Points Should be Used
- + Concerns That Testing is not Developmentally Appropriate for Elementary Students
- + Other Stakeholders' Accountability for Test Results Should be Increased
- + Increased Teacher Preparation and Materials Should be Provided
- + Characteristics of Testing (Ideas, Concerns, Structures)

Elementary Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Equal Technology Needed and Challenges to Validity are Raised
 - + Must be equal technology to compare data between schools
 - + Some Ss have not had opportunities to be fluent with computers
 - + Do paper tests, if that is how Ss are tested in school each week
 - + A technology teacher is needed at each school
 - + Equal troubleshooting support at schools
 - + Concerns about lack of technology; district should provide

Elementary Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Teachers Need to be Involved in Decision Making
 - + There should be an assessment committee with teachers to make district decisions
 - + Developed by actual teachers who are teaching in classrooms
 - + County-wide benchmarks, so similar data is collected across the county
 - + Teachers should be responsible for assessments of students based on standards
 - + Grade level teachers should collaborate on tests
 - + Get rid of bureaucrats, corporations, and testing companies

Elementary Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Testing Should not Impact Teacher Evaluations OR Multiple Data Points Should be Used
 - + “High Stakes” testing causes unneeded stress
 - + Give assessments regularly throughout the year, not one test once a year and only use that to evaluate teachers
 - + Do not use to evaluate teachers who do not teach the tested content (P.E., Art, etc.)
 - + Use multiple data points to evaluate teachers

Elementary Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Concerns That Testing is not Developmentally Appropriate for Elementary Students
 - + Timed tests for K-2 students should not happen
 - + SPED students should be tested at instructional level/ability level
 - + Testing does not show everything a student has learned
 - + Want students to grow as people and tests do not measure that
 - + Standards for students are too difficult for elementary

Elementary Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Other Stakeholders' Accountability for Test Results Should be Increased
 - + Parents and students need to be held accountable for child's growth too
 - + Tests are overwhelming and students just click through the answers when taking online tests
 - + Concerns that students do not do their best on tests and this is not a teacher's fault
 - + Parents should be made aware of test results (STAR, TCAP, etc.)

Elementary Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Increased Teacher Preparation and Materials Should be Provided
 - + All purchased test materials need to align
 - + Training for testing online is essential for teachers
 - + Better communication and alignment to what we are teaching
 - + All KCS schools should be testing in the same way and Ss to move from school to school should show clearly where they are performing; that has not been clear this year and new students are not coming with the information needed to place on correct instructional level, etc.
 - + Unit tests by district to match standardized tests
 - + Support for and against STAR, DE, TCAP, online testing
 - + Teacher need to learn how to use data, instead of just looking at it and discussing it in PLCs

Elementary Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Characteristics of Testing (Ideas, Concerns, Structures)
 - + Testing throughout the year is more helpful (like STAR) than just one test at the end
 - + Allow teachers to test own students with a proctor
 - + Lessen frequency of testing; tested too much
 - + Use more formative assessments throughout the year rather than TCAP
 - + Give pre- and post-tests for each semester to measure
 - + Do not test STAR, TCAP, Social Studies all at the same time
 - + Teachers have been told to teach Common Core Standards, but the TCAP was not reflective of this
 - + Mystery surrounds State testing
 - + Concern with school-to-school testing; some impacted greatly, others not as much
 - + Some prefer STAR testing, others would like to return to using DE testing

Middle School Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

+ Seven Areas of Thought

- + Reduce the amount of testing and loss of class time.
- + Purposeful assessments that provide usable feedback.
- + Reduce student and teacher stress and allow for more teacher input.
- + More teacher training, materials and resources needed.
- + Schools need more computers and students need more training on computers.
- + Reduce the emphasis on high stakes testing in both student grades and teacher evaluations.
- + Educate the whole child and ensure that tests are age and developmentally appropriate.

Middle School Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Reduce the amount of testing and loss of class time.
 - + Concerns that there are too many tests. Students take tests less seriously because they are tested so often.
 - + Suggestion to eliminate all unnecessary tests.
 - + Suggestion to eliminate pilot testing.
 - + Concerns that too much class time is lost due to testing and test prep.

Middle School Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Purposeful assessments that provide usable feedback.
 - + There is a need for consistency in standards and testing in order to accurately measure the fidelity of the assessments.
 - + Teachers want better feedback on assessments to share with students and parents and drive instruction.
 - + Benchmark assessments are valuable.
 - + Common assessments are valuable.
 - + Teachers would like their classroom assessments to be viewed with more value.

Middle School Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Reduce student and teacher stress and allow for more teacher input.
 - + Teachers and students are under a great deal of stress due to assessments.
 - + The assessment program should solicit and use more teacher input.
 - + Teachers want to be respected and trusted to do their job. Assessment results tied to teacher evaluation has created an environment of distrust.

Middle School Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + More teacher training, materials and resources needed.
 - + Teachers need training on best instructional practices.
 - + Teachers need the classroom materials and resources necessary to provide meaningful lessons.
 - + Tests should be aligned to the standards being taught.
 - + The standards are too broad. Detailed pacing guides are needed to understand what students will be tested on.
 - + Specialized coaching is valuable.
 - + Communication with teachers regarding standards and the assessment program needs to be improved.

Middle School Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Schools need more computers and students need more training on computers.
 - + If assessments are going to be given on computers, schools need to have enough computers to test students without testing over long periods of time.
 - + There are concerns about technology problems during testing.
 - + Students need more training on technology, and technology training should begin early (elementary).
 - + Some teachers are not in support of testing on computers.

Middle School Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Reduce the emphasis on high stakes testing in both student grades and teacher evaluations.
 - + The teacher evaluation system is viewed as punitive.
 - + Teacher without individual growth scores do not like being evaluated with the school growth score.
 - + Teachers would like less emphasis placed on achievement and growth scores and take a more holistic view on performance.
 - + Achievement scores should not count as much on a student's overall grade.
 - + TNReady should not count this year for teacher and student scores.
 - + Students and parents need to be held accountable for student achievement, not just teachers.

Middle School Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Educate the whole child and ensure that tests are age and developmentally appropriate.
 - + We need to educate students in a way that produces thinkers, problem-solvers and promotes creativity.
 - + Assessments should be age appropriate.
 - + There is concern about the appropriateness of testing for special education students.
 - + Measure actual growth with a pre and post test.
 - + Students will need time to practice with the new testing format.

High School Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

+ Seven Areas of Thought

- + Too much time spent testing and too much instructional time and planning time lost.
- + More teacher input is needed.
- + Need clear, consistent standards that are aligned to the test. Teachers also need more training and access to appropriate instructional materials.
- + Testing schedules are a challenge.
- + Tests should have a lower impact on teacher evaluations and student grades.
- + Concerns that testing is not differentiated and individualized as classroom instruction is.
- + Need more meaningful feedback on assessments and better communication with parents and students.

High School Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Too much time spent testing and too much instructional time and planning time lost.
- + It is hard to maintain a regular classroom schedule during testing time because so many students are out of class taking another test. Non-tested classes are disrupted.
- + Teachers are shuffled for proctoring and lose valuable planning time during the testing window. Allow teachers to test their own students.
- + The months of December and May are lost due to testing.
- + Reduce the number of “pilot tests”.

High School Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + More teacher input is needed.
 - + Allow teachers to develop assessments.
 - + Allow assessments to be graded in-house for efficiency and cost savings.
 - + Teachers want to teach the material and not teach how to take a test. "Let teachers teach."
 - + "Trust teachers"

High School Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Need clear, consistent standards that are aligned to the test. Teachers also need more training and access to appropriate instructional materials.
- + The standards are very broad. Clarity is needed regarding precisely what teachers should be teaching. Make objectives concise and specific.
- + Maintain consistency in standards and testing. Allow for a greater transition period when changes occur.
- + Increase the quality of tests to be more aligned with the standards (KCS tests and State tests).
- + Curved scores may be misleading to students. Grade does not always reflect mastery.
- + Teachers should be provided with instructional materials that support best instructional practices and maximize the use of classroom time.
- + Train teachers on the new testing format and provide practice test so they can adequately prepare their students.

High School Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Testing schedules are a challenge.
 - + It is difficult for teachers to continue instructional time when many of their students are out taking other exams.
 - + More computers are needed to effectively manage online testing.
 - + Schools need dedicated staff to coordinate assessment schedules.

High School Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Tests should have a lower impact on teacher evaluations and student grades.
 - + High stakes testing creates stress for teachers and students.
 - + Teacher evaluations should not be as heavily impacted by student assessment.
 - + Student grades should not be as heavily impacted by high stakes testing.

High School Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Concerns that testing is not differentiated and individualized as classroom instruction is.
 - + Assessments should be appropriate to the skill level of the students (ex. special education).
 - + Pre and post test will give a better measure of growth.
 - + Teachers should utilize more problem based learning. Teach and test problem solving skills.
 - + Suggestions to use portfolios or ACT style tests that measure all areas at once.
 - + Assessments should be shorter and more frequent to get an accurate measure of growth.

High School Teacher Feedback on Student Assessments in Knox County

- + Need more meaningful feedback on assessments and better communication with parents and students.
 - + There is a need for feedback that is more useful to teachers.
 - + Feedback on assessments should be better communicated with students and parents.