

7/5/2017

To: Lisa Sireno and Shaun Bates

From: Andy Porter, Chair, Missouri Technical Advisory Committee

Subject: Minutes of Missouri TAC Meeting on July 5, 2017

The Missouri Technical Advisory Committee met by telephone conference call on July 5, 2017. The conference call was a follow-up to a conference call on June 2, 2017 where members of the TAC asked Questar for additional information and that additional information was supplied prior to the July 5 conference call. Members of the TAC in attendance were Bertha Doar, director of assessment, St. Louis Missouri Public Schools; Ron Mertz, St. Louis public schools, retired; Barbara Plake, University of Nebraska, retired; Andy Porter, chair of TAC, University of Pennsylvania; Ed Roeber, independent consultant; and Phoebe Winter, independent consultant; DESE: Lisa Sireno, Shaun Bates; Questar: Katie McLarty and Scott Bishop.

Discussions focused on two topics from the spring 2017 administration of end of course tests. Topic one concerned end of course testing on April 25 when heavy use of the system resulted in bandwidth limitations. Topic two concerned a software malfunction for the algebra I performance event.

#### **Impact of bandwidth limitations on April 25**

Across all subjects, 14,666 students were recognized as either logged on and taking an assessment but with slow response time in moving from one item to the next or attempting to log on and unsuccessful. In the text that follows these will be referred to as groups 1, and 2.

The question presented to the TAC was what course of action should be taken by DESE for district and school accountability.

**At the June 2, meeting the TAC preferred removing the affected students for one set of results for districts and schools and use the obtained results as another set of results; for each district and school, for accountability purposes use the better of their two results. The TAC asked for additional results to see how representative of students statewide were the students in group 1 and group 2. Based on the results produced by Questar and distributed in advance of the call, the TAC decided that only group 1 should be included in the reductions since group 2 membership was representative of statewide results.**

#### **Software malfunction for the algebra I**

For 172 students, the performance event software for algebra I created unscorable responses. These unscorable responses were triggered by students entering a select few characters which for unknown reasons created gibberish for their entire answer.. The Questar proposal was to statistically link student performance from session one which was not affected to student performance for the full test for those not affected. Then, to use the statistical link to produce the predicted results for the affected students. One of the handouts showed that the affected students were very low performing students.

**The TAC concluded that using statistically estimated scores for the affected students in session 2 was appropriate and justified, conditioned on the correlation between predicted scores and actual scores for the unaffected students being high. DESE requested that Questar produce this correlation and in addition a distribution of the absolute value of the deviations of predicted and actual scores. The TAC reviewed these results and found them to be sufficient to support using the statistical predicted scores. In particular the correlation between session 1 and session 2 was .63.**