

DEVELOPING A COMMON METRIC

Presentation to the
NYS Early Childhood Advisory Council
June 4, 2012

Overview



- Context
- Early Care and Education (ECE) assessments
- Strengths and Challenges
- The Common Metric Project
- Project Design and Members
- Timeline
- Questions

NYC Early Care and Education Steering Committee

- Convened by the NYC Office of the Mayor in 2007; member agencies include:
 - Administration for Children's Services
 - Department of Education
 - Department of Youth Development and Community Development
 - Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
 - New York City Housing Authority
 - Office of Management and Budget

- Overall mission:

To ensure that young children (0 to 8 yrs) are ready for school and life success across the developmental domains of physical health and well-being, social-emotional development, cognitive development, language and literacy development, and approaches to learning.

Partnerships Increasingly Focused on Quality



- ▣ Authentic Assessment policies
- ▣ Use of ECERS-R
- ▣ Adoption of the Common Core for Pre-K across all settings
- ▣ Work with programs showing linkages between Common Core and Head Start
- ▣ Support for QSNY rollout

Early Care and Education Assessments in New York City

- Currently, ECE programs in New York City (NYC) employ different child assessment tools based on the curriculum they use.
- The three most common assessments are:
 - ▣ Teaching Strategies GOLD
 - ▣ Child Observation Record (COR)
 - ▣ The Work Sampling System (WSS)
- These measures are meant to be used to **inform teacher practice**, as well as monitor an individual **child's development and learning**.

Strengths

- **Flexibility:** Programs are able to choose the assessment system that fits their needs
- **Data:**
 - 100% (19,311) of ACS Head Start programs report child assessment data on-line
 - DOE programs will begin the transition to on-line assessment data collection in 2012-13 school year

Challenges

- While children's progress is being tracked across the year by each teacher, there is **no way to compare how children are doing across all NYC** contracted programs.
- It is **difficult to compare student progress against standards**
- 100% of Head Start programs use on-line assessment systems while other early care and education programs use a **combination of online and manual versions** of the instruments.

Developing a common metric that links 3 child assessments allows us to:

- Maintain the ability to **support all three assessment systems**
- Align with **other sets of standards to ensure continuity:**
 - Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework
 - New York State Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core
- **Track children's progress** across classrooms, sites, and city-wide/state-wide

Project Design Overview



- Phase I: Feasibility
- Phase II: Creating a common metric
- Phase III: Testing robustness of the common metric

Phase I: Feasibility

- Deliverables
 - Developing a partnership
 - Creating a data sharing agreement
 - Checking the data quality
 - Examining the assessment items

Phase II: Creating a Common Metric

- The main goal and output for Phase 2 is the creation of **a psychometrically validated common measure across all three ECE assessments**
- Teachers will be trained to administer a second assessment tool at one point in time in the 2012-2013 school year
 - 3,000 4-year-olds in ECE programs (NYC)
- Results of this data collection effort will be combined with the usual assessment data to create a psychometrically valid tool or common metric
 - 7,000 – 8,000 children (Statewide)

Phase III: Testing the Common Metric

- A longitudinal study with a large, representative sample of early childhood programs, teachers and children (n=6,000)
- Comparisons across child gender, neighborhoods, and other socio-demographic variables
- Longitudinal study will help examine the predictive power of the Common Metric for performance in first grade, for instance.

Project Members

Partners

- NYU
- NYC ACS – Child Care and Head Start
- NYC DOE – Office of Early Childhood Education
- NYC DOHMH – Bureau of Child Care and Bureau of Children Youth and Families
- NYS ECAC

Collaborations

- Massachusetts Department of Early Learning

Timeline



- ▣ Phase I
 - 2011-2012 (completed Spring 2012)
- ▣ Phase II
 - July 2012- December 2013
- ▣ Phase III
 - 2014 and beyond



Thank you!