Appendix G1: Summit Public Schools College Readiness Claim

Summit Public Schools claims that 100% of its students are eligible for 4-year college. Note: We could find no evidence to support this claim.

Summit Public Schools students meet California and Washington “college/career readiness” standards by passing high school coursework (Virtually all Summit Public Schools students in CA and all Summit Public Schools students in WA meet this requirement by passing Summit Public Schools courses instead of by meeting other college/career readiness criteria).

Summit Public Schools determines students’ course grades based on students’ demonstration that they have mastered cognitive skills defined and assessed by Summit Public Schools using its self-designed grading rubric.

Given the significance of the cognitive skills identified by SPS to student course grades, the validity and reliability of the Cognitive Skills Rubric is important.

Summit Public Schools has not provided any evidence that documents the validity of its Cognitive Skills Rubric, or that documents the training of teachers and teachers’ demonstrated ability to reliably use the Cognitive Skills Rubric.

Given the lack of evidence of the validity and reliability of Summit Public Schools’ Cognitive Skills Rubric, it is impossible to know if grades given for student performance using the rubric validly reflect students’ readiness for college.
Appendix G2: Correspondence with Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning, and Equity (SCALE) Regarding the Validation of the Cognitive Skills Rubric

6/1/2020

Gmail - Questions about project with Summit Public Schools

Faith Boninger <fboningergmail.com>

Questions about project with Summit Public Schools
11 messages
Faith Boninger <fboningergmail.com>
To: lgtumann@stanford.edu
Thu, Aug 22, 2019 at 10:01 AM

Hi Laura,
I wonder if you can help connect me to someone at SCALE who I can talk to about the project that your group did for Summit Public Schools. I'm doing some research on Summit's program, and have read that its Cognitive Skills Rubric had been validated by SCALE. I'm not clear about what that means, and would love to talk to someone involved in the project in order to learn more.
Looking forward to hearing from you.
Best,
Faith

Faith Boninger
National Education Policy Center
Co-Director, Commercialism in Education Research Unit
School of Education
University of Colorado
faith.boningergmail.com
nepc.colorado.edu
Follow @NEPCTweet on Twitter

Faith Boninger <fboningergmail.com>
To: lgtumann@stanford.edu
Mon, Aug 26, 2019 at 8:17 AM

Hi Laura,
Just following up on my email below. I wonder if you can help connect me to someone at SCALE who I can talk to about the project that your group did for Summit Public Schools. I'm doing some research on Summit's program, and have read that its Cognitive Skills Rubric had been validated by SCALE. I'm not clear about what that means, and would love to talk to someone involved in the project in order to learn more.
Looking forward to hearing from you.
Best,
Faith

(Quoted text hidden)

Laura Gutmann <lgtumann@stanford.edu>
To: Faith Boninger <fboningergmail.com>
Mon, Aug 26, 2019 at 1:21 PM

Hi Faith -

Sorry for the delay - have been traveling and just catching up on emails. I will forward your email to a colleague who I believe worked on that rubric development, although the other main person on the project is no longer at SCALE. From what I understand, yes, we provided some validity-related support when it was first piloted.

I'll see if my colleague can give more insight about the specifics and reply to you.

Thanks!
Laura

Laura Gutmann, Ph.D.
Research & Design Associate
Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning and Equity (SCALE)

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6/1/2020

Gmail - Questions about project with Summit Public Schools

Graduate School of Education, Stanford University

From: Faith Boninger <fboninger@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 8:17:13 AM
To: Laura Gutmann <lgutmann@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Questions about project with Summit Public Schools

[Quoted text hidden]

Faith Boninger <fboninger@gmail.com>
To: Laura Gutmann <lgutmann@stanford.edu>

That's great, Laura. Thanks a lot.
Best,
Faith
[Quoted text hidden]

Laura Gutmann <lgutmann@stanford.edu>
To: Faith Boninger <fboninger@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 26, 2019 at 1:29 PM

Hi Faith -

My colleague who knows a bit more about the project said to pass on that:

SCALE (including subject matter experts) wrote the rubrics and benchmarked the levels to grade level standards (CCSS, NGSS, and C3 standards).

Hope that helps!

Best,
Laura

[Quoted text hidden]

Laura Gutmann, Ph.D.
Research & Design Associate
Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning and Equity (SCALE)
Graduate School of Education, Stanford University

From: Faith Boninger <fboninger@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 1:28:17 PM
[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Faith Boninger <fboninger@gmail.com>
To: Laura Gutmann <lgutmann@stanford.edu>

Tue, Aug 27, 2019 at 7:53 AM

Yes, thank you. Is there a write-up that I can look at?
Best,
Faith
[Quoted text hidden]

Faith Boninger <fboninger@gmail.com>
To: Laura Gutmann <lgutmann@stanford.edu>

Fri, Aug 30, 2019 at 11:13 AM

Hi Laura,

I'm just following up from my e-mail earlier in the week. Would you please send me documentation that explains how the rubrics were created and benchmarked to grade level standards?

Thanks,
Faith
[Quoted text hidden]

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=8d62e6477c&view=pt&search=all&permthd=thread-a%3A1e-81122373965397545255&simpliedmsg=a%3Ae43322358187421178...2/4
Laura Gutmann <lgutmann@stanford.edu>  
To: Faith Boninger <fboninger@gmail.com>  
Fri, Aug 30, 2019 at 11:15 AM

Hi Faith –

Yes, I have been digging around but don’t have any additional info to share with you at this time – if I find something in the future, I’ll be sure to let you know! However, you may want to contact Summit directly to see if they have their own documentation of this project, as it was several years ago, and the lead staff who consulting on this project are no longer at SCALE.

[Quoted text hidden]

Faith Boninger <fboninger@gmail.com>  
To: Laura Gutmann <lgutmann@stanford.edu>  
Sun, Sep 1, 2019 at 2:43 PM

Thanks!  
Faith  
[Quoted text hidden]

Faith Boninger <fboninger@gmail.com>  
To: Laura Gutmann <lgutmann@stanford.edu>  
Tue, Feb 4, 2020 at 2:03 PM

Hi Laura,  
Sorry to bother you, but I just ran into another couple of question about the Summit Public Schools’ Cognitive Skills Rubric, that I hope you can answer:

1. It says on the SCALE website (https://scale.stanford.edu/content/summit-public-schools) that the date of completion was “anticipated” as June 2014. Was it completed then?

2. An Education Week article (here) refers to a “team of academic experts at Stanford.” Is that SCALE? Here’s how the article, which was published in March 2016, describes the project: “From the beginning, it was clear that making Khan Academy work in Summit schools would take a collaborative effort. Carter worked with a team of academic experts from Stanford on integrating the new online tools into Summit’s curriculum, which was shifting to merge project-based learning with a focus on helping students “learn about how they learn.”

Thanks again for your help!  
Faith  
[Quoted text hidden]

Faith Boninger <fboninger@gmail.com>  
To: Laura Gutmann <lgutmann@stanford.edu>  
Fri, Feb 21, 2020 at 12:10 PM

Hi Laura.

I’m just following up on my questions from a few weeks ago. I hope you can find the time to answer them. They are:

1. It says on the SCALE website (https://scale.stanford.edu/content/summit-public-schools) that the date of completion was “anticipated” as June 2014. Was it completed then?

2. An Education Week article (here) refers to a “team of academic experts at Stanford.” Is that SCALE? Here’s how the article, which was published in March 2016, describes the project: “From the beginning, it was clear that making Khan Academy work in Summit schools would take a collaborative effort. Carter worked with a team of academic experts from Stanford on integrating the new online tools into Summit’s curriculum, which was shifting to merge project-based learning with a focus on helping students “learn about how they learn.”

Also, has SCALE updated the Cognitive Skills Rubric in recent years? If so, when?

Thanks much for your help!

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6/11/2020

Gmail - Questions about project with Summit Public Schools

Faith

[Quoted text hidden]
Automatic reply: Questions about project with Summit Public Schools

Laura Gutmann <lgutmann@stanford.edu>
To: Faith Boninger <fboninger@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 27, 2019 at 7:53 AM

I am currently out of the office and will return your message as soon as possible! Thank you!

Laura Gutmann <lgutmann@stanford.edu>
To: Faith Boninger <fboninger@gmail.com>

Fri, Feb 21, 2020 at 12:11 PM

I am currently traveling out the country and will get back to you as soon as possible when I return. If you need immediate assistance with edTPA conference questions, please contact rmerino@stanford.edu.

Thank you!