KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT (KRA)
FOR ACCOUNTABILITY PURPOSES
A decision tree in which many incorrect decisions are needed to end up using KRA results for program accountability.

DO WE HAVE A TEST THAT HAS BEEN VALIDATED FOR ACCOUNTABILITY PURPOSES?

No one has ever created a kindergarten readiness assessment instrument that is valid for accountability purposes.

BUT SOME MIGHT PROCEED ANYWAY
by using an existing instrument despite the fact that it has not been validated for accountability purposes.

IS THE INSTRUMENT A DIRECT ASSESSMENT, OR IS IT SCORED BASED ON INFORMATION REPORTED BY THE TEACHER ADMINISTERING IT?

If the instrument is teacher-reported:
- Is there a system for ensuring that scoring is consistent across all of the state’s kindergarten teachers?
  - No state has a system of this kind, because it would be incredibly expensive to develop and maintain, and would be undermined by the fact that the teachers conducting the assessments may feel they have a stake in the results.
  - BUT SOME MIGHT PROCEED ANYWAY

If the instrument is a direct assessment:
- Does it cover the full range of domains that are essential to understanding child readiness?
  - No existing direct assessment covers the full range of domains that are essential to understanding child readiness, including domains such as approaches toward learning, physical well-being and motor development, and social and emotional development.
  - BUT SOME MIGHT PROCEED ANYWAY

Is either proficiency or growth an appropriate measure for accountability purposes?

Proficiency is not
Using proficiency as a measure discourages programs from enrolling the children who need early learning the most. States also don’t have the mechanisms needed to attribute results to individual sites.

Growth is not
Using growth requires (1) the use of ‘pre-tests’ every time a child joins an early learning program, (2) a system of attribution, and (3) a data system to support that system of attribution. No state has any of those systems, let alone all three.

DO NOT USE KRA RESULTS FOR PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY

FROM USES AND MISUSES OF KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT RESULTS
>> Visit www.theounce.org/what-we-do/policy/policy-conversations for more info <<

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