Assessment Technical Reports

What are technical reports?

Assessment technical reports document the process of developing, administering, scoring, and evaluating the technical quality of assessments. Georgia's technical reports for assessment are produced annually as a resource for the Georgia Department of Education, and are also posted publicly as an informational resource for stakeholders.

Technical reports for assessments document annual processes and outcomes in the assessment development and maintenance cycle. These include information on the assessment goals and uses, as well as detailed information on item and test function and technical evaluation outcomes.

Assessment technical reports are written by and for assessment professionals and contain some complex terms and language specific to the assessment development field. These reports may be a useful resource for stakeholders seeking detailed technical information on how Georgia's assessments are developed and maintained. In addition, Georgia has several assessment information resources designed for the public including an assessment literacy website, and an assessment development video series.

What information is found in technical reports?

Technical reports contain chapters with details about each step in developing and evaluating the assessment.

Development

Information on the item development, test form building, and achievement standards development can all be found in a technical report. Georgia's assessment technical reports are generally cumulative, meaning the development efforts from the current year, as well as development established in prior years, are all documented in an annual report.

Scoring

Several scoring steps are documented in annual technical reports; one major step is rangefinding and performance scoring of constructed-response items. Scoring and calibration of all item types, including field test items is also included, detailing the process of transforming raw scores to equated ability on the reported scale.

Evaluation

Evaluation steps occur throughout the development cycle, and are documented throughout the associated technical report chapters accordingly. In particular, valuation of the equating model and of the validity and reliability of an assessment is a key focus, and the annual processes and results are detailed in dedicated chapters in these reports.

How could technical reports be used?

Technical reports can be used to answer detailed technical questions regarding assessment development. Below are some examples of how someone might use a technical report to better understand key assessment topics.

Validity and Reliability

Assessment validity is considered at each step of test design, administration, scoring, and reporting to support appropriate inferences and use; it is addressed throughout each portion of a technical report. The chapters which addresses specific measures of assessment reliability and validity may be used to better understand the evaluation processes and criteria for ensuring the validity of all reported student scores.

Achievement Standards

How achievement standards are set, who is involved in the process, what methodology is used, and how these standards are held constant each administration is all included in assessment technical reports. The chapter on standard setting can answer questions regarding the use of achievement standards at all stages of the test development cycle: form building, scoring, and reporting.

Writing and Evaluating Items

Because item development is documented in detail in annual technical reports, this may provide a useful reference point to answer detailed technical questions regarding how items are written to align to Georgia's academic content standards, meet test design specifications, and engage Georgia students to support their demonstration of achievement.