

KERA UPDATE

February 1996

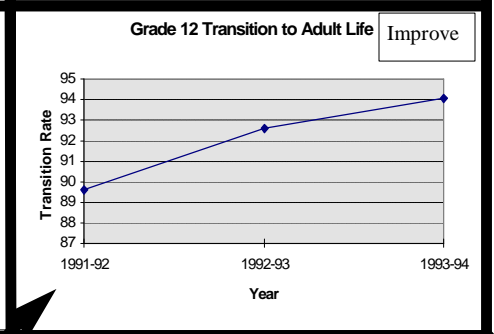
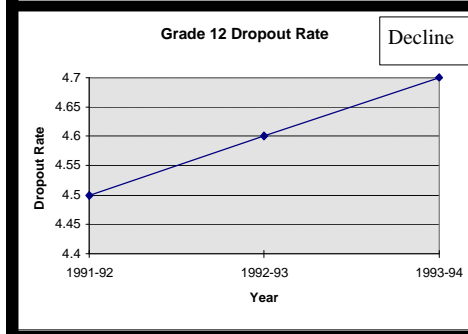
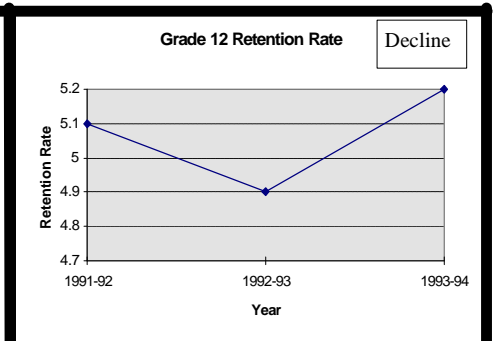
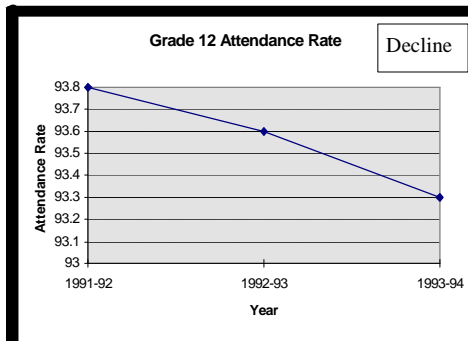
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The KIRIS Non-Cognitive Index — An Important Measurement — But, Is It Accurate?

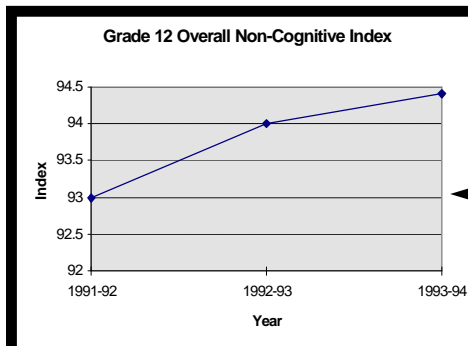
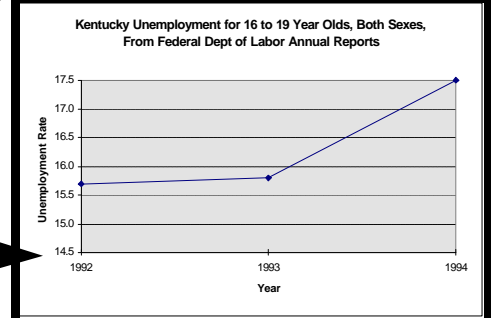
One of the most important goals of the Kentucky Education Reform Act is increasing success for our children in later life. As a result, the Kentucky Instructional Results Information System includes a number of “Non-Cognitive” indicators in the accountability index for each high school in the state. The intent is to form a judgment on school success based on more than academically-oriented test scores.

Unfortunately, examination of the non-cognitive indicators on page 149 from the KY Department of Education’s KIRIS Accountability Cycle 1 Technical Manual raises a question about the accuracy of the Overall Non-Cognitive Index. Of the 4 areas included in the calculation, only one, Transition to Adult Life, showed a positive trend. This one positive indicator, however, does not agree with Kentucky’s increasing youth unemployment trend as calculated by the Federal Department of Labor.

With three of the four 12th Grade non-cognitive indicators in decline, and the accuracy of the one positive trend questionable, it seems possible that the Overall Non-Cognitive calculation is in error. It certainly seems like a good idea to investigate this part of KIRIS to see if the program is operating effectively.



Notice that the only positive trend for 12th Grade Non-Cognitive indicators is the Transition to Adult Life. **BUT,** Federal Department of Labor Youth Unemployment Data indicates Kentucky 16 to 19 year olds were having significantly more trouble finding a job during the same timeshare.



So, it seems unlikely that the continuous positive performance for the 12th Grade Overall Non-Cognitive Index reported by KDE accurately reflects the real situation.