Teacher Work Sample Results

The Teacher Work Sample (TWS) is a required assignment for Block 3 interns, Phase II student teachers, and Alternate Route interns. Successful candidates should have an impact on student learning. Their students should gain substantive knowledge and skills. Candidates are expected to demonstrate that they can deliver an effective instructional unit, employ meaningful classroom assessments, and analyze and reflect on their experiences. The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate the degree of impact candidates have on students’ learning by examining:

- Candidate ability to analyze community and classroom context (Factor 1)
- Candidate ability to develop learning and make instructional decisions based upon that analysis (Factor 2)
- Candidate ability to construct and deliver an instructional unit (Factor 3)
- Candidate ability to integrate instruction across and within subject matter fields (Factor 4)
- Candidate ability to analyze classroom learning environment (Factor 5)
- Candidate ability to provide information on students’ learning through analysis of formative and summative assessment data (Factor 6)
- Candidate ability to analyze and reflect on the experience to promote personal professional growth (Factor 7)

Looking at the data table (note that there are not yet enough Alternate Route completers to be included in the table), elementary and secondary candidates have been consistently outstanding in performance across all seven factors. In addition, Factors 1 through 4 are combined to produce a score used to measure candidate ability to plan instruction, which is a major assessment for KSDE program reporting. Factors 5 through 7 are combined to produce a score used to measure candidate effect on student learning. Candidate performance on these two measurements is consistently strong across the three years reported.

One pattern that continues longitudinally is the consistently lowest scores observed for Factor 7. Although the percent scores for Factor 7 hover around 90%, a reasonable hypothesis is that the advent of the new Conceptual Framework with Proficiency 5 Relies on Self-Reflection should result in unit-wide activities that will result in increasing Factor 7 scores.