

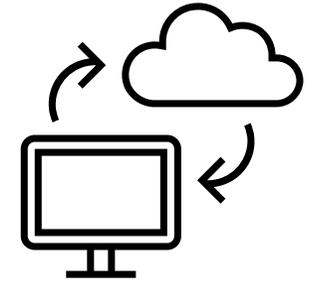
Deciding About Use of the COS-KC and if the Tool is a Good Fit for Your State

Resource Developed November 2022



The Child Outcomes Summary Knowledge Check (COS-KC)

- Is a new, free, open-book online assessment.
- It includes 30 multiple-choice questions to test knowledge of the COS process and takes about 45 minutes.
- It provides a way for states and local programs to know whether practitioners have the basic knowledge they need to participate effectively in the COS process.



Practitioner knowledge is one piece of a system using high-quality outcomes data for program improvement

COS Supports

Professional Development
(On Many Related Topics)

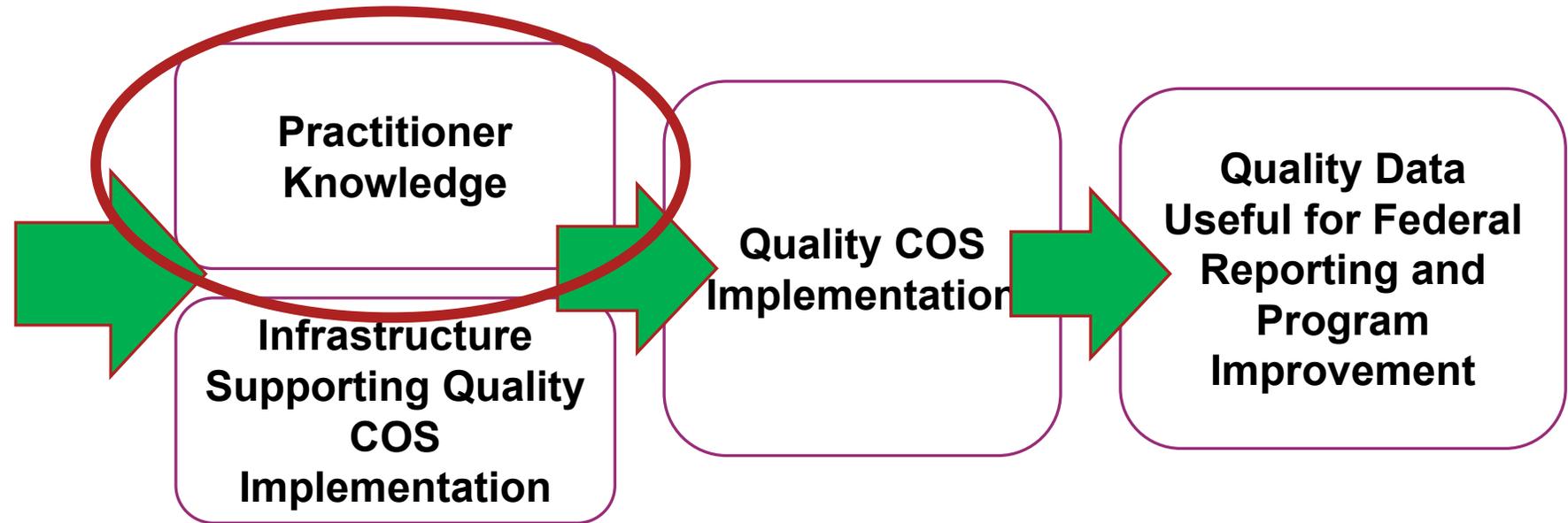
Guidance and Policies

Leadership Investment and Culture of Data Use

Monitoring and Feedback

Data Use and Review of Data Quality

COS-KC



The COS-KC

IS

- A measure of background knowledge that people involved in the COS process have
- 30 multiple-choice questions
- Intended for states using the Child Outcomes Summary process with a 7-point scale
- An assessment to use with those who have had COS training/ professional development

IS NOT

- A measure of how effectively they implement the COS process
- A case study simulating the full COS process
- For states who use a single tool statewide or a significantly adapted version of the COS process.
- A training program or starting point for learning about the COS

Example Questions the COS-KC Helps Answer

- What percentage of practitioners in our state have the background knowledge necessary for high-quality COS data collection?
- In which locations or programs do practitioners have more or less knowledge of the COS? Or, where is a refresher most needed?
- What are the characteristics of practitioners with stronger or weaker COS knowledge (For example, their roles, amount/type of COS training, years experience in the field)?
- Do people conducting COS training have requisite knowledge about the COS?
- After participating in a specific kind of COS professional development, do practitioners have the background knowledge they need on the COS?

Examples of Varied State Uses for the COS-KC

- Require or encourage all practitioners or contractors in a state to take the COS-KC and provide a certificate of achievement demonstrating their knowledge.
- Recommend use of COS-KC following COS professional development (PD) training
- Share the COS-KC as a resource for PD/training staff to check their own knowledge or require them to provide the certificate to others before conducting training.
- Recommend local administrators use the tool with newly hired staff/contractors after providing them with COS PD training.
- Use the COS-KC in pre-service classes to check student learning.
- After a period of statewide training, use the tool statewide to identify which regions to target for roll out of additional COS training/coaching

Considerations in Deciding About Use of the COS-KC

CONSIDERATION

- Do some practitioners in your state **use the 7-point COS** rating process?
- What if we are thinking that **some, but not all, practitioners might take the COS-KC** in our state?
- Have practitioners/administrators **expressed interest in the COS-KC**?

WHY AND COMMENTS

- The COS-KC is designed to assess knowledge of the national 7-point version of the COS. If there have been major adaptations from that, results may be difficult to interpret.
- It is possible for some, but not all, practitioners to take the COS-KC. It is up to the state to identify guidance about whether the COS-KC is recommended or required and by whom.
- Setting up a system for interested practitioners to complete the COS-KC is fairly quick if some will use it. Whether or not to require COS-KC completion is a bigger decision.

Considerations in Deciding About Use of the COS-KC

CONSIDERATION

- Have **practitioners** involved in the COS in your state **received training and support**?
- How do you weigh the **pros and cons between practitioners taking time to complete the COS-KC** (~45 min) and if they are likely to have skills to pass it (especially before a requirement to do the COS-KC)?

WHY AND COMMENTS

- The COS-KC taps into a lot of content. Without training, practitioners will not have the background knowledge needed to pass
- If you know that PD is minimal everywhere, do that first. If it is highly variable and the state is trying to figure out where to target, it may be more useful.

Considerations in Deciding About Use of the COS-KC

CONSIDERATION

- What is the **time and capacity** for state staff or local administrators **to review COS-KC reports and use them** to adjust state guidance or target PD locations and activities?
- What **follow up activities after the COS-KC** might you implement (for example, self or group reflection, follow up training/coaching)?

WHY AND COMMENTS

- Reports suggest who and where, not what, is needed. The COS-KC is most useful when using reports to plan next steps.
- Reflection after assessment can be powerful. Users taking the COS-KC may know which content was hard if you provide a way for them to request follow up soon after taking its completion.

What Happens if Our State Does Not Set Up the COS-KC?

- Individual practitioners may still register as users and take the assessment
- No location/LEA/program level data is recorded (the user is not assigned to a specific program)
- No state/local reports are available to your state. Only the DaSy “admin” can see the reports for practitioners in all states.
- If the state sets up the system for the COS-KC after some practitioners have taken the assessment, the early data from before the system was set up will not be included later in reports after the system was put in place.

**Find out more at dasycenter.org/cos-kc or at
dasycenter.org or ectacenter.org**

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