

WARNS: Why context matters in test fairness

We have implemented a Spanish translation for the middle and high school instruments which we plan to demonstrate. We will also provide an update on our efforts to establish thresholds for Low, Moderate, and High risk levels for the Middle School instrument. On the research front, we applied a new generation of item bias analysis to the WARNS in an ecological framework to understand why bias occurs using sociological, community, and contextual variables as possible explanations, above ethnicity. With the use of district level administrative data, we demonstrate how this contextual information explains sources of bias. This information enhances our understanding of the WARNS and informs conversations with youth about their context. We will also present on the development of the WARNS short screener. The short screener is an online computer adaptive assessment being designed to give counselors and school officials a quick, yet predictive, snapshot of a student. This will allow school officials to quickly screen a larger group of students to determine who might benefit from completing the full WARNS assessment. Finally, we will discuss the availability of our new online training videos on the WARNS informational website (warns.wsu.edu).