



# Assessment and NRS Webinar

North Carolina Community College System  
Basic Skills Department



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## Today's Topics

- Assessment guidelines
- Distance learning policy
- Common NRS findings from on-site monitoring
- Coming soon – desk monitoring
- Community college data updates

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## Our Process

- › Information sharing
- › Question/answer period after each topic
  - Write your questions down along the way
  - Phone or email during question/answer period
- › 15 minute break half way through
- › Evaluation



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## Assessment Basics



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## Assessment Basics

- ▶ All learners
  - Should be pre- and post-tested with standardized assessment
    - Purpose: initial placement and educational gain
    - Uniform testing procedures
  - Use of varied informal assessments
    - May not be used to determine federal EFL's



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## Pre/Post-testing Guidelines

- ▶ Initial Pretest
  - Must be administered **within the first 12 hours**
  - Not necessarily on the first day of intake
- ▶ Progress/Posttest
  - Any test after initial pretest - called a posttest
  - Must occur **after the # of instructional hours recommended by test manufacturer**



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## Approved Assessments

Assessment	Post-testing Hours
CASAS	70 - 100 hours
TABE, form 9 & 10 TABE, CLAS-E	60 hours
WorkKeys	Completion of a semester or quarter course
BEST Literacy/BEST Plus	80 - 100 hours

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## Exceptions

- ▶ If post-testing occurs with less than recommended hours
  - Should be limited and rare
  - Reason must be documented

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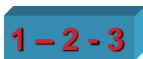
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## Exceptions



- ▶ The Three Step Rule:
  1. Students must have at least the minimum number of hours for each assessment
    - 40 for CASAS
    - 30 for TABE
    - 60 for BEST Literacy/BEST Plus
    - AND
  2. Students must be at the ASE Low or ASE high level AND
  3. Students must have an outcome measure goal of attaining a GED, entering postsecondary education or training, entering employment, or retaining a job.

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### Re-Testing for Stop-Outs

If student has "stopped-out" for more than 90 days

- Administer a new test prior to or within two weeks of re-admittance

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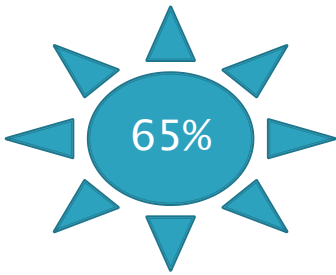
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### Post-Testing Benchmark



Percentage of students attending 12 hours or more that must be post-tested.

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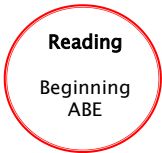
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### Initial EFL

- ▶ If multiple skill areas are assessed,
  - Place student according to **lowest** educational functioning level.



**Math**  
Low  
Intermediate

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## Goal Setting



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## Goal Setting

- ▶ **NRS goals**
  - **ACHIEVABLE WITHIN THE PROGRAM YEAR**
- ▶ A strong goal-setting process between student and instructor or intake specialist is critical!
- ▶ Difference between personal goals and NRS goals

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## Assessment Training

- ▶ Essential for a quality assessment system
- ▶ Annual training sessions available



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## Question/Answer Time

Assessment Policy



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## Distance Learning

▸ Defined:

A formal learning activity where students and instructors are separated by geography, time or both for the majority of the instructional period.

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## Distance Learning

- Distance learners
  - Must be assessed under the same guidelines as all adult learners
  - Counting hours
    - Proxy hours – hours where exact time spent on activities cannot be directly verified but are calculated based on one of three models.



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## Models

### Clock time

- ▶ May only be used with curricula that:
  - Track the time the students interacts with the curricula and
  - Contain a mechanism to log students out of the program after a specified period of inactivity

One hour of clock time reported as one hour of instructional time

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## Models

### Teacher verification

- ▶ State assigns a predetermined number of proxy hours for completing activities
  - NC will use # of proxy hours determined by Project IDEAL for various curricula.
  - Non-Project IDEAL curricula
    - Must first pilot the curriculum and conduct research on hours that students take to finish the units, etc.
    - Then, apply for permission to System Office 30 days prior to offering the curriculum.

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## Models

### Learner mastery

- ▶ Used for Crossroads Café
- ▶ Students given 10 proxy contact hours per unit as long as they demonstrate mastery on chapter quiz or test of 70%

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### Piloting a Distance Course to Determine Proxy Hours

- ▶ Have students keep a log of time that students work on each activity.
- ▶ Get an average for all students.
- ▶ During study, contact hours are not submitted for those students.
- ▶ After the study, programs submit a "Distance Learning Course Approval Application."

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### Question/Answer Time

Distance Learning Policy



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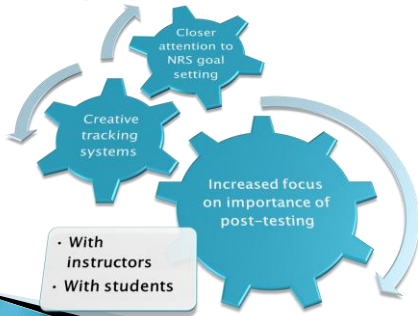
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### What we're seeing on our monitoring visits



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## What we're seeing on our monitoring visits

### PITFALLS TO AVOID



- ▶ Post-testing too soon or too often
  - Multiple uses of same test form
  - How long is it taking students to complete a level?
- ▶ Students completing LEIS form and marking NRS goals
- ▶ Instructors not understanding NRS and performance targets

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## Get your instructors involved

- ▶ Make sure they know the performance targets for the EFL's
  - [http://www.ncccs.cc.nc.us/Basic\\_Skills/administration.htm](http://www.ncccs.cc.nc.us/Basic_Skills/administration.htm)




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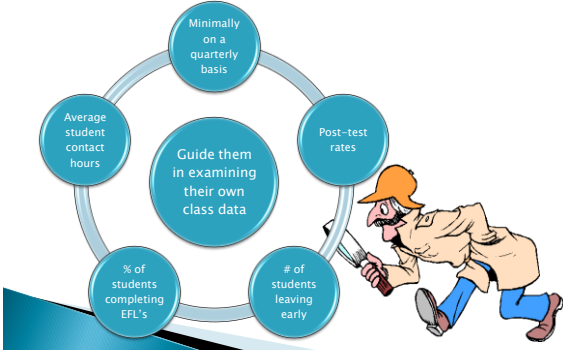
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## Get your instructors involved




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## Question/Answer Time

**Common Findings and Desk Monitoring**



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## Evaluation

- ▶ Don't forget to complete your evaluation.
- ▶ [http://www.ncccs.cc.nc.us/Basic\\_Skills/All\\_Registrations/NRSWebcastIHR4-7-10ConfirmationofTraining.htm](http://www.ncccs.cc.nc.us/Basic_Skills/All_Registrations/NRSWebcastIHR4-7-10ConfirmationofTraining.htm)

Next Topic:  
Community College  
Data Update

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## Getting the data terminology straight



Colleague - CC management information system

- ▶ Datatel - company that produced Colleague
- ▶ Data Warehouse - data repository
- ▶ LACES - CBO management information system

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## Running reports

Colleague	Data Warehouse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› State and federal reports</li> <li>› Can use <b>ANY data range</b> (e.g., month, semester, year)</li> <li>› Need help?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Contact Dennis Smith</li> <li>◦ <a href="mailto:smithd@nccommunitycolleges.edu">smithd@nccommunitycolleges.edu</a></li> <li>◦ 919.807.7190</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› <b>Annual</b> NRS tables (federal)</li> <li>› <b>Annual</b> Lit tables (state)</li> <li>› Lit Monitors (<b>semester</b>)</li> <li>› Need help?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Skilled knowledge worker at your college</li> <li>◦ Help desk ticket</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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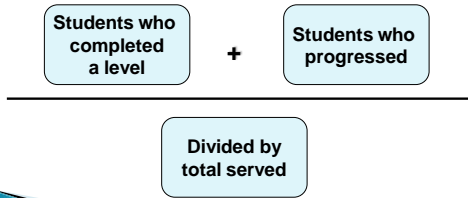
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## Calculating your retention rate

- › Use Lit Table 4 in Data Warehouse




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## Common Problems

- › No more BSA
- › **Can't have same date** for “set a goal” and “met a goal”

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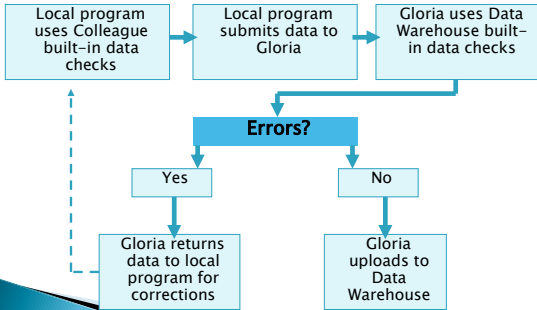
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### Data Error Checking Process



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### Question/Answer Time

#### Data Issues



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### Good News!

- ▶ U.S. Department of Education
  - Scheduling meetings with state staff
  - Discussing recommendations for changes to NRS



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# Assessment and NRS Webinar

Thank you for participating!



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