2020-2021 Assessment Manual Update Webinar

Presented by Michael Tilley  July 15, 2020
Purpose and Uses of Assessment

• Required by WIOA
• Determine participant eligibility
• Place learners at appropriate level of instruction
• Diagnose learner’s strengths and weaknesses
• Monitor Progress
**NRS Approved ABE Assessments**

**ABE Tests NRS approved through 2022, 2024 & 2025:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Paper Based</th>
<th>Computer Based</th>
<th>Expiration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CASAS Math GOALS</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>March 6, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABE 11/12</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>September 7, 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASAS Reading GOALS</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>February 5, 2025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NRS Approved ESL Assessments

ESL tests NRS approved through Feb 2, 2021:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Paper Based</th>
<th>Computer Based</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BEST Literacy</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST Plus 2.0</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASAS Life &amp; Work Listening</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASAS Life &amp; Work Reading</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABE Clas-E</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local providers are required to keep and maintain a database of all trained NRS test administrators.

The database must include the date of their initial training as well as the dates of all subsequent refresher trainings.
Instructors may **not** administer NRS approved assessments to **their own** students.

This policy covers all assessments given in NC – TABE, CASAS, and BEST.

This includes face to face, computer based, and virtual testing.
All data (demographics, attendance, and assessments) must be entered into Colleague (community colleges) and LACES (community-based organizations) no less than weekly.
Each student receives one initial placement for the entire program year based on their lowest valid score from any approved NRS pre-test.

If more than one assessment is given, all assessments taken within three calendar days of the first assessment will be evaluated to determine initial placement.

Any assessment can be used to determine an EFL gain in subsequent matching assessments.
Accommodating for Students with Disabilities

- Local providers are responsible for providing fully accessible services.

- Adult learners with disabilities are responsible for requesting accommodations.

- Local test administrators may approve some accommodations in test administration without approval from the testing manufacturer; however, manufacturer’s guidelines must still be followed.
During a Period of Participation (POP), all participants (those that have 12+ hours) can show progression through attainment of an MSG.

MSGs are awarded for 5 types of gain:
- Pre/Post Test Gains
- Post-Secondary Enrollment
- HSE Completion
- Adult High School Completion
- Adult High School Credits
New / Returning / Continuing Students

• New Students – Students are classified as new if they have not previously attended the program.

• Returning Students – Students are classified as returning if they were served in a previous POP but have been separated for at least 90 consecutive calendar days and choose to return to the program.
• Continuing Student – Students are classified as continuing if they have not separated for at least 90 consecutive calendar days but continue from one program year to the next.

• Tests given during the look back period of April 2 – June 30 of the prior program year may have those scores count for initial placement.
Local programs unable to administer an NRS approved test to a distance learning participant due to the COVID-19 pandemic may use a non NRS approved assessment to provisionally place students in an Educational Functional Level (EFL) and determine eligibility for new, returning, and continuing students.
Expanding Testing Exemptions

This tool may be a locally developed or recommended assessment instruction and does NOT have to have approval from the System Office.

The score is to be used as a placeholder only until an NRS approved assessment can be administered.
Local programs may implement virtual test proctoring using NC approved assessments, in accordance with the test vendors’ procedures for virtual testing.

Check each vendor’s website for up to date information on virtual/remote testing.
Remote Testing Details

- Remote Testing for CASAS Tests
- CASAS Remote Testing 1:1 Demonstration
- TABE 11/12 Remote Proctoring Guidance
- BEST Plus 2.0 Virtual Test Administration Guidance
Criteria to Identify Students Unable to Test During COVID-19 Pandemic

• Any distance student unable to take an NRS approved test either in person or remotely may be provisionally assigned an EFL using an alternative EFL placement option.

• Any distance learning students who have been given a provisionally placed EFL should be given an NRS approved assessment, once feasible.

• Providers should implement remote assessment options during times when students cannot be given an NRS approved assessment in person.
Frequently Asked Questions
When should students be post-tested?

- Students should be post-tested based on the test manufacturer’s recommendation of number of hours of attendance.
- Each assessment has a different recommended number of hours for post-testing.
  - BEST Lit & BEST Plus 2.0 – 80 – 100 hours
  - CASAS – 70 – 100 hours
  - TABE 11 & 12 – 30 - 60 hours
  - TABE CLAS-E – 60 – 95 hours
Can students be post-tested before they reach the recommended number of hours of attendance?

• Yes, all test manufacturers have a **minimum** number of hours of attendance students must reach before post-testing.

• The minimum number of attendance hours is intended for use in exceptional circumstances.
  
  • BEST Lit & BEST Plus – 60 hours
  • CASAS – 40 hours
  • TABE 11 & 12 – 30/40 hours
  • TABE CLAS-E – 50 hours
Can students be post-tested before they reach the minimum number of hours of attendance?

NO

Students may not be post-tested until they have reached the minimum number of hours required by the test manufacturers.
Does a continuing student need a new EFL placement for the new academic year if they do not have valid scores?

**YES**

Continuing students will need a new EFL placement, within the first 12 hours of instruction in the new academic year, if they did not take an approved NRS assessment during the 90 day look back period of the previous year.
Can a student earn an MSG if they have a provisionally assigned EFL?

Yes!
Questions?
Thank You!

If you have any other assessment questions, contact:
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