| Test Benchmarks for NRS Educational Functioning Levels Updated August 2023 |
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## Adult Basic Education (ABE)

| Educational Functioning Level (EFL) | Test Benchmarks |
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| Beginning ABE Literacy (ABE Level 1—all subjects) | CASAS[[1]](#footnote-1) Reading GOALS scale scores:  Reading: 203 and below  CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:  Mathematics: 193 and below  CASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:  Mathematics: 192 and below  TABE[[2]](#footnote-2) (11–12) scale scores (grade level 0–1):  Reading: 300–441  Mathematics: 300–448  Language: 300–457  WorkKeys Applied Math scale scores:  Mathematics: 71–73[[3]](#footnote-3) |
| Beginning Basic Education (ABE Level 2—all subjects) | CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:  Reading: 204–216  CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:  Mathematics: 194–203  CASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:  Mathematics: 193–203  MAPT[[4]](#footnote-4) scale scores:  All tests: 200–299  TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 2–3):  Reading: 442–500 Mathematics: 449–495 Language: 458–510  WorkKeys Applied Math scale scores:  Mathematics: 74–78  WorkKeys Workplace Documents scale scores:  Reading: 73–74 |
| Low Intermediate Basic Education (ABE Level 3—all subjects) | CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:  Reading: 217–227  CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:  Mathematics: 204–214  CASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:  Mathematics: 204–213  MAPT scale scores:  All tests: 300–399  TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 4–5):  Reading: 501–535 Mathematics: 496–536 Language: 511–546  WorkKeys Applied Math scale scores:  Mathematics: 79–82  WorkKeys Workplace Documents scale scores:  Reading: 75–77 |
| High Intermediate Basic Education (ABE Level 4—English Language Arts; ELA)  Middle Intermediate Basic Education (ABE Level 4––Mathematics)[[5]](#footnote-5) | CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:  Reading: 228–238  CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:  Mathematics: 215–225  CASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:  Mathematics: 214–224  MAPT scale scores:  All tests: 400–499  TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 6–8):  Reading: 536–575 Mathematics: 537–595 Language: 547–583  WorkKeys Applied Math scale scores:  Mathematics: 83–85  WorkKeys Workplace Documents scale scores:  Reading: 78–80 |
| Low Adult Secondary Education (ABE Level 5—ELA)  High Intermediate Basic Education (ABE Level 5—Mathematics) | CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:  Reading: 239–248  CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:  Mathematics: 226–235  CASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:  Mathematics: 225–235  MAPT scale scores:  All tests: 500–599  TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 9–10):  Reading: 576–616 Language: 584–630  Mathematics: 596–656  WorkKeys Applied Math scale scores:  Mathematics: 86–87  WorkKeys Workplace Documents scale scores:  Reading: 81–82 |
| High Adult Secondary Education (ABE Level 6—ELA)  Adult Secondary Education (ABE Level 6—Mathematics) | CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:  Reading: 249 and above  CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:  Mathematics: 236 and above  CASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:  Mathematics: 236 and above  MAPT scale scores:  All tests: 600–700  TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 11–12):  Reading: 617–800 Language: 631–800  Mathematics: 657–800  WorkKeys Applied Math scale scores:  Mathematics: 88–90  WorkKeys Workplace Documents scale scores:  Reading: 83–90 |

## English as a Second Language (ESL)

| Educational Functioning Level (EFL) | Test Benchmarks |
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| Beginning ESL Literacy (ESL Level 1—all subjects) | BEST[[6]](#footnote-6) Literacy: 0–20[[7]](#footnote-7)  BEST Literacy 2.0 scale scores:  Reading: 100–177 Writing: 100–187 Composite: 100–182  BEST Plus 2.0: 88–361  BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores:  Computer-based test: 600–677 Print-based test: 600–677  CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:  Reading: 180 and below  CASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:  Listening: 162–180  CASAS Reading Student Test of English Progress and Success (STEPS) scale scores:  Reading: 183 and below  CASAS Listening STEPS scale scores:  Listening: 181 and below  TABE CLAS–E[[8]](#footnote-8) scale scores:[[9]](#footnote-9)  Total Reading and Writing: 225–394 Total Listening and Speaking: 230–407 |
| Low Beginning ESL (ESL Level 2—all subjects) | BEST Literacy:21–52  BEST Literacy 2.0 scale scores:  Reading: 178–203 Writing: 188–214 Composite: 183–209  BEST Plus 2.0: 362–427  BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores:  Computer-based test: 678–702 Print-based test: 678–702  CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:  Reading: 181–190  CASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:  Listening: 181–189  CASAS Reading STEPS scale scores:  Reading: 184–196  CASAS Listening STEPS scale scores:  Listening: 182–191  TABE CLAS–E scale scores:  Total Reading and Writing: 395–441 Total Listening and Speaking: 408–449 |
| High Beginning ESL (ESL Level 3—all subjects) | BEST Literacy: 53–63  BEST Literacy 2.0 scale scores:  Reading: 204–233 Writing: 215–254 Composite: 210–244  BEST Plus 2.0: 428–452  BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores:  Computer-based test: 703–726 Print-based test: 703–726  CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:  Reading: 191–200  CASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:  Listening: 190–199  CASAS Reading STEPS scale scores:  Reading: 197–206  CASAS Listening STEPS scale scores:  Listening: 192–201  TABE CLAS–E scale scores:  Total Reading and Writing: 442–482 Total Listening and Speaking: 450–485 |
| Low Intermediate ESL (ESL Level 4—all subjects) | BEST Literacy: 64–67  BEST Literacy 2.0 scale scores:  Reading: 234–261 Writing: 255–300 Composite: 245–300  BEST Plus 2.0: 453–484  BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores:  Computer-based test: 727–752 Print-based test: 727–752[[10]](#footnote-10)  CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:  Reading: 201–210  CASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:  Listening: 200–209  CASAS Reading STEPS scale scores:  Reading: 207–216  CASAS Listening STEPS scale scores:  Listening: 202–211  TABE CLAS–E scale scores:  Total Reading and Writing: 483–514 Total Listening and Speaking: 486–525 |
| High Intermediate ESL (ESL Level 5—all subjects) | BEST Literacy: 68–75  BEST Literacy 2.0 scale scores:[[11]](#footnote-11)  Reading: 262–300  BEST Plus 2.0: 485–524  BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores:  Computer-based test: 753–785  CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:  Reading: 211–220  CASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:  Listening: 210–218  CASAS Reading STEPS scale scores:  Reading: 217–227  CASAS Listening STEPS scale scores:  Listening: 212–221  TABE CLAS–E scale scores:  Total Reading and Writing: 515–556 Total Listening and Speaking: 526–558 |
| Advanced ESL (ESL Level 6—all subjects) | BEST Literacy:[[12]](#footnote-12) 76–78  BEST Plus:525–564 (exit 565 and higher)  BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores:  Computer-based test: 786–849[[13]](#footnote-13)  CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:  Reading: 221–235  CASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:  Listening: 219–227  CASAS Reading STEPS scale scores:  Reading: 228–238[[14]](#footnote-14)  CASAS Listening STEPS scale scores:  Listening: 222–231[[15]](#footnote-15)  TABE CLAS–E scale scores:  Total Reading and Writing: 557–600 Total Listening and Speaking: 559–600 |

1. CASAS = Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. TABE = Test of Adult Basic Education. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Below ABE Level 1 Mathematics: 65–70. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. MAPT = Massachusetts Adult Proficiency Test. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. For mathematics, there is an additional intermediate level, Middle Intermediate (level 4), in addition to High Intermediate (level 5), and only one secondary level (level 6), because of the complexity of the mathematics descriptors. When reporting on NRS tables, use the level number. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. BEST = Basic English Skills Test. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Corresponds to Student Performance Level (SPL) 0–1. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. TABE CLAS–E = Test of Adult Basic Education Complete Language Assessment System—English. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Refer to the TABE CLAS–E Technical Manual for score ranges for individual reading, writing, listening, and speaking tests. Table shows only total scores. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Above ESL Level 4: 753 and higher on print-based test. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Students can be placed into High Intermediate ESL using Best Literacy 2.0, but the test does not assess skills beyond this level, so students cannot exit High Intermediate ESL with this test. Retesting of students who enter this level with another assessment is recommended. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Students can be placed into advanced ESL using Best Literacy, but the test does not assess skills beyond this level, so students cannot exit Advanced ESL with this test. Retesting of students who enter this level with another assessment is recommended. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Above ESL Level 6: 850 and higher on computer-based test. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Above ESL Level 6: 239 and higher. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Above ESL Level 6: 232 and higher. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)