| Test Benchmarks for NRS Educational Functioning LevelsUpdated 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 belowCASAS Math GOALS scale scores:Mathematics: 193 and belowCASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:Mathematics: 192 and belowTABE[[2]](#footnote-2) (11–12) scale scores (grade level 0–1):Reading: 300–441 Mathematics: 300–448 Language: 300–457WorkKeys Applied Math scale scores:Mathematics: 71–73[[3]](#footnote-3) |
| Beginning Basic Education(ABE Level 2—all subjects) | CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:Reading: 204–216CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:Mathematics: 194–203 CASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:Mathematics: 193–203MAPT[[4]](#footnote-4) scale scores:All tests: 200–299TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 2–3):Reading: 442–500Mathematics: 449–495Language: 458–510WorkKeys Applied Math scale scores:Mathematics: 74–78WorkKeys Workplace Documents scale scores:Reading: 73–74 |
| Low Intermediate Basic Education(ABE Level 3—all subjects) | CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:Reading: 217–227CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:Mathematics: 204–214CASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:Mathematics: 204–213MAPT scale scores:All tests: 300–399TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 4–5):Reading: 501–535Mathematics: 496–536Language: 511–546WorkKeys Applied Math scale scores:Mathematics: 79–82WorkKeys 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: 228–238CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:Mathematics: 215–225CASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:Mathematics: 214–224MAPT scale scores:All tests: 400–499TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 6–8):Reading: 536–575Mathematics: 537–595Language: 547–583WorkKeys Applied Math scale scores:Mathematics: 83–85WorkKeys 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: 239–248CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:Mathematics: 226–235CASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:Mathematics: 225–235MAPT scale scores:All tests: 500–599TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 9–10):Reading: 576–616Language: 584–630 Mathematics: 596–656WorkKeys Applied Math scale scores:Mathematics: 86–87WorkKeys 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 aboveCASAS Math GOALS scale scores:Mathematics: 236 and aboveCASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:Mathematics: 236 and aboveMAPT scale scores:All tests: 600–700TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 11–12):Reading: 617–800Language: 631–800 Mathematics: 657–800WorkKeys Applied Math scale scores:Mathematics: 88–90WorkKeys 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: 100–177Writing: 100–187Composite: 100–182BEST Plus 2.0: 88–361BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores: Computer-based test: 600–677Print-based test: 600–677CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:Reading: 180 and belowCASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:Listening: 162–180CASAS Reading Student Test of English Progress and Success (STEPS) scale scores:Reading: 183 and belowCASAS Listening STEPS scale scores:Listening: 181 and belowTABE CLAS–E[[8]](#footnote-8) scale scores:[[9]](#footnote-9)Total Reading and Writing: 225–394Total Listening and Speaking: 230–407 |
| Low Beginning ESL(ESL Level 2—all subjects) | BEST Literacy:21–52BEST Literacy 2.0 scale scores:Reading: 178–203Writing: 188–214Composite: 183–209BEST Plus 2.0: 362–427BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores:Computer-based test: 678–702Print-based test: 678–702CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:Reading: 181–190CASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:Listening: 181–189CASAS Reading STEPS scale scores:Reading: 184–196CASAS Listening STEPS scale scores:Listening: 182–191TABE CLAS–E scale scores:Total Reading and Writing: 395–441Total Listening and Speaking: 408–449 |
| High Beginning ESL(ESL Level 3—all subjects) | BEST Literacy: 53–63BEST Literacy 2.0 scale scores:Reading: 204–233Writing: 215–254Composite: 210–244BEST Plus 2.0: 428–452BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores:Computer-based test: 703–726Print-based test: 703–726CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:Reading: 191–200CASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:Listening: 190–199CASAS Reading STEPS scale scores:Reading: 197–206CASAS Listening STEPS scale scores:Listening: 192–201TABE CLAS–E scale scores:Total Reading and Writing: 442–482Total Listening and Speaking: 450–485 |
| Low Intermediate ESL(ESL Level 4—all subjects) | BEST Literacy: 64–67BEST Literacy 2.0 scale scores:Reading: 234–261Writing: 255–300Composite: 245–300BEST Plus 2.0: 453–484BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores:Computer-based test: 727–752Print-based test: 727–752[[10]](#footnote-10)CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:Reading: 201–210CASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:Listening: 200–209CASAS Reading STEPS scale scores:Reading: 207–216CASAS Listening STEPS scale scores:Listening: 202–211TABE CLAS–E scale scores:Total Reading and Writing: 483–514Total Listening and Speaking: 486–525 |
| High Intermediate ESL(ESL Level 5—all subjects) | BEST Literacy: 68–75BEST Literacy 2.0 scale scores:[[11]](#footnote-11)Reading: 262–300BEST Plus 2.0: 485–524BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores:Computer-based test: 753–785CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:Reading: 211–220CASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:Listening: 210–218CASAS Reading STEPS scale scores:Reading: 217–227CASAS Listening STEPS scale scores:Listening: 212–221TABE CLAS–E scale scores:Total Reading and Writing: 515–556Total Listening and Speaking: 526–558 |
| Advanced ESL(ESL Level 6—all subjects) | BEST Literacy:[[12]](#footnote-12) 76–78BEST 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: 221–235CASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:Listening: 219–227CASAS 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: 557–600Total 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)