

**Test Benchmarks for NRS Educational Functioning Levels** Updated August 2024

## Adult Basic Education (ABE)

Educational Functioning Level (EFL)	Test Benchmarks
Beginning ABE Literacy	CASAS <sup>1</sup> Reading GOALS scale scores:
(ABE Level 1—all subjects)	Reading: 203 and below
	CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:
	Mathematics: 193 and below
	CASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:
	Mathematics: 192 and below
	TABE <sup>2</sup> (11–12) scale scores (grade level 0–1):
	Reading: 300–441
	Mathematics: 300–448
	Language: 300–457
	TABE (13–14) scale scores (grade level 0–1):
	Reading: 300–441 (TABE L) and 310–441 (TABE E)
	Mathematics: 300–448 (TABE L) and 310–448 (TABE E)
	Language: 300–457 (TABE L) and 310–457 (TABE E)
	WorkKeys Applied Math scale scores:
	Mathematics: 71–73 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> CASAS = Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> TABE = Test of Adult Basic Education.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Below ABE Level 1 Mathematics: 65–70.

Beginning Basic Education	CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:
(ABE Level 2—all subjects)	Reading: 204–216
	CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:
	Mathematics: 194–203
	CASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:
	Mathematics: 193–203
	MAPT <sup>4</sup> scale scores:
	All tests: 200–299
	TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 2–3):
	Reading: 442–500
	Mathematics: 449–495 Language: 458–510
	TABE (13–14) 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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> MAPT = Massachusetts Adult Proficiency Test.

Educational Functioning Level (EFL)	Test Benchmarks
Low Intermediate Basic Education	CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:
(ABE Level 3—all subjects)	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
	TABE (13–14) 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

Educational Functioning Level (EFL)	Test Benchmarks
High Intermediate Basic Education	CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:
(ABE Level 4—English Language Arts; ELA)	Reading: 228–238
	CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:
	Mathematics: 215–225
	CASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:
	Mathematics: 214–224
Middle Intermediate Basic Education (ABE Level 4—Mathematics) <sup>5</sup>	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
	TABE (13–14) 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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 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.

Educational Functioning Level (EFL)	Test Benchmarks
Low Adult Secondary Education	CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:
(ABE Level 5—ELA)	Reading: 239–248
	CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:
	Mathematics: 226–235
	CASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:
	Mathematics: 225–235
High Intermediate Basic Education (ABE Level 5—Mathematics)	MAPT scale scores:
(ADE LEVELS—IMALITEMALICS)	All tests: 500–599
	TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 9–10):
	Reading: 576–616
	Mathematics: 596–656
	Language: 584–630
	TABE (13–14) scale scores (grade level 9–10):
	Reading: 576–616
	Mathematics: 596–656
	Language: 584–630
	WorkKeys Applied Math scale scores:
	Mathematics: 86–87
	WorkKeys Workplace Documents scale scores:
	Reading: 81–82

Educational Functioning Level (EFL)	Test Benchmarks
High Adult Secondary Education	CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:
(ABE Level 6—ELA)	Reading: 249 and above
	CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:
	Mathematics: 236 and above
	CASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:
	Mathematics: 236 and above
Adult Secondary Education (ABE Level 6—Mathematics)	MAPT scale scores:
	All tests: 600–700
	TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 11–12):
	Reading: 617–800
	Mathematics: 657–800 Language: 631–800
	TABE (13–14) scale scores (grade level 11–12): Reading: 617–800
	Mathematics: 657–800
	Language: 631–800
	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
Beginning ESL Literacy	BEST <sup>6</sup> Literacy: 0–20 <sup>7</sup>
(ESL Level 1—all subjects)	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 <sup>8</sup> scale scores, forms A and B: <sup>9</sup>
	Total Reading and Writing: 225–394
	Total Listening and Speaking: 230–407
	TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms C and D:
	Reading: 200–354
	Writing: 210–384
	Listening: 200–348
	Speaking: 170–338

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> BEST = Basic English Skills Test.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Corresponds to Student Performance Level (SPL) 0–1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> TABE CLAS–E = Test of Adult Basic Education Complete Language Assessment System—English.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Refer to the TABE CLAS–E Technical Manual for score ranges for individual reading, writing, listening, and speaking tests. Table shows only total scores.

Educational Functioning Level (EFL)	Test Benchmarks
Low Beginning ESL	BEST Literacy: 21–52
(ESL Level 2—all subjects)	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, forms A and B:
	Total Reading and Writing: 395–441
	Total Listening and Speaking: 408–449
	TABE CLAS-E scale scores, forms C and D:
	Reading: 355–388 Writing: 385–414
	Listening: 349–389
	Speaking: 339–402

Educational Functioning Level (EFL)	Test Benchmarks
High Beginning ESL	BEST Literacy: 53–63
(ESL Level 3—all subjects)	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, forms A and B:
	Total Reading and Writing: 442–482 Total Listening and Speaking: 450–485
	TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms C and D:
	Reading: 389–427
	Writing: 415–437 Listening: 390–427
	Speaking: 403–436

(ESL Level 4—all subjects) BEST Lite Reading: Writing: 2 Composit	255–300
BEST Lite Reading: Writing: 2 Composit	234–261 255–300
Writing: 2 Composit	255–300
Composit	
BEST Plus	
	<b>s 2.0:</b> 453–484
BEST Plus	s 3.0 scale scores:
	r-based test: 727–752 ed test: 727–752 <sup>10</sup>
CASAS Lif	fe and Work Reading scale scores:
Reading:	201–210
	fe and Work Listening scale scores:
	: 200–209
	eading STEPS scale scores:
Reading:	
	stening STEPS scale scores: : 202–211
	AS-E scale scores, forms A and B: Iding and Writing: 483–514
	ening and Speaking: 486–525
TABE CL#	AS-E scale scores, forms C and D:
Reading:	428–448
Writing: 4	438–461 : 428–457
-	: 437–475

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Above ESL Level 4: 753 and higher on print-based test.

Educational Functioning Level (EFL)	Test Benchmarks
High Intermediate ESL	BEST Literacy: 68–75
(ESL Level 5—all subjects)	BEST Literacy 2.0 scale scores: <sup>11</sup>
	Reading: 262–300
	<b>BEST Plus 2.0:</b> 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, forms A and B: Total Reading and Writing: 515–556
	Total Listening and Speaking: 526–558
	TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms C and D:
	Reading: 449–487 Writing: 462–500
	Listening: 458–488
	Speaking: 476–542

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> 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.

Educational Functioning Level (EFL)	Test Benchmarks
Advanced ESL	BEST Literacy: <sup>12</sup> 76–78
(ESL Level 6—all subjects)	BEST Plus: 525–564 (exit 565 and higher)
	<b>BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores:</b> Computer-based test: 786–849 <sup>13</sup>
	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 <sup>14</sup>
	CASAS Listening STEPS scale scores: Listening: 222–231 <sup>15</sup>
	TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms A and B: Total Reading and Writing: 557–600 Total Listening and Speaking: 559–600
	TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms C and D: Reading: 488–580 Writing: 501–670 Listening: 489–620 Speaking: 543–670
	TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms C and D, exit from Level 6:
	Reading: 527 Writing: 536 Listening: 533 Speaking: 568

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Above ESL Level 6: 850 and higher on computer-based test.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Above ESL Level 6: 239 and higher.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Above ESL Level 6: 232 and higher.