



# Test Benchmarks for NRS Educational Functioning Levels

Updated August 2024

## Adult Basic Education (ABE)

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

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

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

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

Educational Functioning Level (EFL)	Test Benchmarks
<p><b>Beginning Basic Education (ABE Level 2—all subjects)</b></p>	<p><b>CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:</b> Reading: 204–216</p> <p><b>CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:</b> Mathematics: 194–203</p> <p><b>CASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:</b> Mathematics: 193–203</p> <p><b>MAPT<sup>4</sup> scale scores:</b> All tests: 200–299</p> <p><b>TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 2–3):</b> Reading: 442–500 Mathematics: 449–495 Language: 458–510</p> <p><b>TABE (13–14) scale scores (grade level 2–3):</b> Reading: 442–500 Mathematics: 449–495 Language: 458–510</p> <p><b>WorkKeys Applied Math scale scores:</b> Mathematics: 74–78</p> <p><b>WorkKeys Workplace Documents scale scores:</b> Reading: 73–74</p>

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

Educational Functioning Level (EFL)	Test Benchmarks
<p><b>Low Intermediate Basic Education</b> (ABE Level 3—all subjects)</p>	<p><b>CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:</b> Reading: 217–227</p> <p><b>CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:</b> Mathematics: 204–214</p> <p><b>CASAS Math GOALS 2 scale scores:</b> Mathematics: 204–213</p> <p><b>MAPT scale scores:</b> All tests: 300–399</p> <p><b>TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 4–5):</b> Reading: 501–535 Mathematics: 496–536 Language: 511–546</p> <p><b>TABE (13–14) scale scores (grade level 4–5):</b> Reading: 501–535 Mathematics: 496–536 Language: 511–546</p> <p><b>WorkKeys Applied Math scale scores:</b> Mathematics: 79–82</p> <p><b>WorkKeys Workplace Documents scale scores:</b> Reading: 75–77</p>







## English as a Second Language (ESL)

Educational Functioning Level (EFL)	Test Benchmarks
<p><b>Beginning ESL Literacy</b> (ESL Level 1—all subjects)</p>	<p><b>BEST<sup>6</sup> Literacy: 0–20<sup>7</sup></b></p> <p><b>BEST Literacy 2.0 scale scores:</b>            Reading: 100–177            Writing: 100–187            Composite: 100–182</p> <p><b>BEST Plus 2.0: 88–361</b></p> <p><b>BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores:</b>            Computer-based test: 600–677            Print-based test: 600–677</p> <p><b>CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:</b>            Reading: 180 and below</p> <p><b>CASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:</b>            Listening: 162–180</p> <p><b>CASAS Reading Student Test of English Progress and Success (STEPS) scale scores:</b>            Reading: 183 and below</p> <p><b>CASAS Listening STEPS scale scores:</b>            Listening: 181 and below</p> <p><b>TABE CLAS–E<sup>8</sup> scale scores, forms A and B:<sup>9</sup></b>            Total Reading and Writing: 225–394            Total Listening and Speaking: 230–407</p> <p><b>TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms C and D:</b>            Reading: 200–354            Writing: 210–384            Listening: 200–348            Speaking: 170–338</p>

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

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

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

<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
<p><b>Low Beginning ESL</b> (ESL Level 2—all subjects)</p>	<p><b>BEST Literacy:</b> 21–52</p> <p><b>BEST Literacy 2.0 scale scores:</b>  Reading: 178–203  Writing: 188–214  Composite: 183–209</p> <p><b>BEST Plus 2.0:</b> 362–427</p> <p><b>BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores:</b>  Computer-based test: 678–702  Print-based test: 678–702</p> <p><b>CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:</b>  Reading: 181–190</p> <p><b>CASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:</b>  Listening: 181–189</p> <p><b>CASAS Reading STEPS scale scores:</b>  Reading: 184–196</p> <p><b>CASAS Listening STEPS scale scores:</b>  Listening: 182–191</p> <p><b>TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms A and B:</b>  Total Reading and Writing: 395–441  Total Listening and Speaking: 408–449</p> <p><b>TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms C and D:</b>  Reading: 355–388  Writing: 385–414  Listening: 349–389  Speaking: 339–402</p>



Educational Functioning Level (EFL)	Test Benchmarks
<p><b>High Beginning ESL</b> (ESL Level 3—all subjects)</p>	<p><b>BEST Literacy:</b> 53–63</p> <p><b>BEST Literacy 2.0 scale scores:</b>  Reading: 204–233  Writing: 215–254  Composite: 210–244</p> <p><b>BEST Plus 2.0:</b> 428–452</p> <p><b>BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores:</b>  Computer-based test: 703–726  Print-based test: 703–726</p> <p><b>CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:</b>  Reading: 191–200</p> <p><b>CASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:</b>  Listening: 190–199</p> <p><b>CASAS Reading STEPS scale scores:</b>  Reading: 197–206</p> <p><b>CASAS Listening STEPS scale scores:</b>  Listening: 192–201</p> <p><b>TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms A and B:</b>  Total Reading and Writing: 442–482  Total Listening and Speaking: 450–485</p> <p><b>TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms C and D:</b>  Reading: 389–427  Writing: 415–437  Listening: 390–427  Speaking: 403–436</p>

Educational Functioning Level (EFL)	Test Benchmarks
<p><b>Low Intermediate ESL</b> (ESL Level 4—all subjects)</p>	<p><b>BEST Literacy:</b> 64–67</p> <p><b>BEST Literacy 2.0 scale scores:</b>  Reading: 234–261  Writing: 255–300  Composite: 245–300</p> <p><b>BEST Plus 2.0:</b> 453–484</p> <p><b>BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores:</b>  Computer-based test: 727–752  Print-based test: 727–752<sup>10</sup></p> <p><b>CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:</b>  Reading: 201–210</p> <p><b>CASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:</b>  Listening: 200–209</p> <p><b>CASAS Reading STEPS scale scores:</b>  Reading: 207–216</p> <p><b>CASAS Listening STEPS scale scores:</b>  Listening: 202–211</p> <p><b>TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms A and B:</b>  Total Reading and Writing: 483–514  Total Listening and Speaking: 486–525</p> <p><b>TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms C and D:</b>  Reading: 428–448  Writing: 438–461  Listening: 428–457  Speaking: 437–475</p>

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

Educational Functioning Level (EFL)	Test Benchmarks
<p><b>High Intermediate ESL</b> (ESL Level 5—all subjects)</p>	<p><b>BEST Literacy:</b> 68–75</p> <p><b>BEST Literacy 2.0 scale scores:</b><sup>11</sup> Reading: 262–300</p> <p><b>BEST Plus 2.0:</b> 485–524</p> <p><b>BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores:</b> Computer-based test: 753–785</p> <p><b>CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:</b> Reading: 211–220</p> <p><b>CASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:</b> Listening: 210–218</p> <p><b>CASAS Reading STEPS scale scores:</b> Reading: 217–227</p> <p><b>CASAS Listening STEPS scale scores:</b> Listening: 212–221</p> <p><b>TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms A and B:</b> Total Reading and Writing: 515–556 Total Listening and Speaking: 526–558</p> <p><b>TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms C and D:</b> Reading: 449–487 Writing: 462–500 Listening: 458–488 Speaking: 476–542</p>

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<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
<p><b>Advanced ESL</b> (ESL Level 6—all subjects)</p>	<p><b>BEST Literacy:</b><sup>12</sup> 76–78</p> <p><b>BEST Plus:</b> 525–564 (exit 565 and higher)</p> <p><b>BEST Plus 3.0 scale scores:</b> Computer-based test: 786–849<sup>13</sup></p> <p><b>CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:</b> Reading: 221–235</p> <p><b>CASAS Life and Work Listening scale scores:</b> Listening: 219–227</p> <p><b>CASAS Reading STEPS scale scores:</b> Reading: 228–238<sup>14</sup></p> <p><b>CASAS Listening STEPS scale scores:</b> Listening: 222–231<sup>15</sup></p> <p><b>TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms A and B:</b> Total Reading and Writing: 557–600 Total Listening and Speaking: 559–600</p> <p><b>TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms C and D:</b> Reading: 488–580 Writing: 501–670 Listening: 489–620 Speaking: 543–670</p> <p>TABE CLAS–E scale scores, forms C and D, exit from Level 6:</p> <p>Reading: 527 Writing: 536 Listening: 533 Speaking: 568</p>

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

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

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