



CASAS Reading Level Indicator (RLI) - Form 601 R Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. *What is the purpose of the Reading Level Indicator (RLI)?*

- The RLI results in **estimated NRS levels**, which may be used for **provisional placement** into classes.
- TOPSpro Enterprise (TE) automatically records this estimated level and it appears in the NRS **Federal Table 4** report.
- OCTAE has advised programs to administer an NRS-approved test as soon as possible in order to replace the provisional NRS level on Table 4 with an **official NRS level that can be used for Measurable Skill Gains**.

2. *What is the target audience for the RLI?*

- All ABE/ASE students and ESL students at **NRS ESL Level 3 and above**.

3. *How is the RLI different from other CASAS tests?*

- The RLI contains non-secure test questions and does not need to be proctored.
- It is NOT NRS-approved and **may NOT be used for pre- or post-testing to achieve Measurable Skill Gains (MSGs)**.
- The RLI may be taken on a mobile phone (or on any other device).

4. *How long does it take?*

- The RLI is a 28-item test that should take most students about 30 minutes.
- The test will stop after 40 minutes.
- Directions for the test-taker: Do the best you can in 30 minutes. You don't have to answer all questions. If the questions get too hard, you can skip them using the right arrow. Do not guess. Click or tap **End Test** when you are finished. If using a mobile phone or tablet, rotate the device horizontally to landscape mode before starting the test. Turning on your device's Do Not Disturb mode beforehand is also recommended to avoid disruptions.

5. Can students return to the test if they need to interrupt testing for some reason?

- Students are encouraged to take the test without interruption, but if necessary, they may leave the test and then return using the same unique link they originally received. The test will resume at the same question they had been working on. However, students cannot return to the test indefinitely; the test session will be suspended after 40 minutes.

6. When will the RLI be available?

- The online RLI was released in August 2020.
- The paper RLI is available as of September 23, 2020.

7. Who can use the RLI?

- The RLI is available at no cost only to eTests/TE users.
- A pencil and paper version is also available for purchase. To order, click here or copy and paste the link in your internet browser: <https://www.casas.org/product-overviews/assessments/order-reading-level-indicator>

8. What are some possible uses of the RLI?

- The RLI will be useful to *intake counselors* and *registrars*. CASAS recommends preparing the student for the assessment and giving them detailed instructions about the process.
- *Data Managers* might query TE daily or weekly for newly-registered students, then send the invitations to them and generate reports showing compliance.

9. How are RLI results shown to students?

- Results are shown as “Estimated NRS EFL” for ABE or ESL. **No scale scores are given.**
- The Personal Score Report may be shown to the student at the end of the test.
- Both an ABE and ESL estimated NRS EFL will be shown for students who do not have a program designation (ABE or ESL) in TE prior to testing. If a program designation has been made, then only the applicable EFL will be shown.

10. How can agencies access RLI results?

- Results are seen in TE under **Records > Tests** or in eTests on the **Test Results** page.
- Agencies can use the “Agency Test Score” report, which is in TE under **Reports > CASAS eTests**, to see the estimated NRS levels.

11. How do students access the test?

- Agencies log in to TE and use the “**Send RLI Invite**” button.
- Agencies can deliver invitations via SMS text message or email.
- Students receive the invitations on their personal devices and then they click or tap the included link at any time to visit the eTests Online website.
- Students are logged in to eTests automatically and presented with RLI form 601R.

12. Will the RLI give a grade level?

- No, the RLI only gives an estimated EFL - Educational Functioning Level.

13. Will there be an equivalent for Math for ABE/ASE purposes?

- There are currently no plans for a Math equivalent, although it may be developed in the future.

14. Will there be training on how to administer the RLI?

- The RLI online and paper Guidelines documents provide information to use this assessment. Please also view the “Steps to Administer the CASAS Online Reading Level Indicator – Form 601R video” – [click here](#).

15. Is it possible to score out of range on the RLI test? If so, how does that look in the results?

- ABE students cannot score out of range on the RLI. Each student will receive an estimated NRS EFL. The RLI is designed for ESL students who are NRS Level 3 and above. ESL students who score at the lowest range on the RLI will not receive an estimated EFL and an asterisk will be shown in reports. The asterisk indicates that the student is likely to be at the NRS 1 or 2 level and other assessments should be used to determine the student’s level. Students who score in the very high range will be assigned the highest estimated NRS level.

16. Can the RLI be set up without having to invite students in TE? For example, is it possible to make the RLI link available during registration without sending an invitation from TE?

- Invitations from TE are required. This is the only way to generate the RLI link.

17. What does the email address look like from CASAS or TE when the RLI link is emailed?

- The email invitation comes from casastest@casas.org. The default subject line is: <AGENCY NAME> Invites You to Take a Test.
- Agencies are encouraged to customize the “Email From” name so that students can easily recognize that the email was sent by a familiar program. It is also useful to customize the body of the email message and to set a concise Alternative Agency Name. All of these customizations contribute to making the invitation more recognizable by students, which means they are more likely to open and read it.

18. Will the invitation process in TE work if you do not have the enhanced version of TE?

- Yes.

19. Will there be any kind of assessment like 601R for lower level ESL students?

- Lower level ESL students would be better served via an oral interview-style placement evaluation.
- CASAS also offers a Beginning Literacy Screening that may be used to identify ESL learners with very limited literacy skills. Click here: [The CASAS Intake Process](#)

20. I see it says "placement information to guide DISTANCE LEARNING instruction." Could it not also be used to guide IN-PERSON instruction?

- Yes. The RLI can be used for distance learning and to guide in-person instruction. It can be administered remotely and face-to-face.

21. Is there any danger in overriding students that have a pretest?

- No. A formal pretest score will take precedence over an RLI score.

22. Is there a paper version of the RLI?

- Yes. It is available to order online at <https://www.casas.org/product-overviews/assessments/order-reading-level-indicator>.

23. If we just want to use the paper RLI assessment do we need to be an existing CASAS user?

- No. However, CASAS Implementation Training is required for ordering and using CASAS test materials, both online and paper.