



**MATH GOALS FOR ABE AND ASE  
GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULT LEARNING SUCCESS**

**FAQs**

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**1. *In which instructional areas may agencies use the Math GOALS series for NRS reporting?***

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) has approved the Math GOALS test series for NRS reporting purposes through March 6, 2022, in the instructional program areas of **Adult Basic Education (ABE)** and **Adult Secondary Education (ASE)**. CASAS will submit additional data and technical material to extend the approval period.

**2. *How is the Math GOALS series different from the Life Skills Math series?***

Math GOALS is aligned to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standards for Adult Education (2013) and covers the full range of ability levels in the CCR Standards from beginning literacy through adult secondary mathematics. Math GOALS measures the rigorous academic math skills contained in the Standards that are most relevant to preparing adults for success in college, technical training programs, and employment. The series draws on higher-order skills involving basic and advanced math operations, statistics and probability, geometry, and other fields of math. Test content continues to be tested in the context of CASAS Competencies to maintain relevance for adult learners, including an emphasis on work-related math.

**3. *May students use a calculator with Math GOALS? Do they use it for the entire test?***

Students may use a calculator throughout the entire math test. CASAS eTests provides an on-screen calculator, while programs that use paper-based tests should provide students with a basic calculator (not a graphing calculator). Students may not use a personal calculator nor their cell phone calculator.

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**4. Which locator or appraisal (placement) test should agencies use with Math GOALS? How long do they take?**

The **Form 104M Math Locator** (used only in CASAS eTests) is a 15-minute test with 10 questions. It automatically places the student in the correct pretest level.

The **Form 900M Math GOALS Appraisal** is a 30-minute test with 20 questions and is the **only appraisal** appropriate for use with paper-based pre- and post-tests in the Math GOALS series.

**5. What pre- and post-tests does Math GOALS use? How long do the tests take?**

The series uses two parallel forms of pre- and post-tests at each of four academic levels: Levels A/B (Forms 913M-914M) and Levels C/D (Forms 917M-918M).

The maximum time allowed for Level A/B tests is 60-minutes. Levels D/C allow 75-minutes. Level A/B tests have 40 questions and tests at Level C/D have 38 questions. The national average test time for Math GOALS pre- and post-tests is 43 minutes.

The four levels provide sufficient placement opportunities to provide the most accurate diagnostic information to guide instruction.

Math GOALS			Timing
CASAS Level	Form Number	Number of Test Items	Students have up to
A/B	Form 913	40	60 min.
A/B	Form 914	40	60 min.
C/D	Form 917	38	75 min.
C/D	Form 918	38	75 min.

**6. Which answer sheets should agencies use with the Form 900M Math GOALS Appraisal and the Math GOALS pre- and post-tests?**

To score the test with TOPSpro Enterprise: TOPSpro Student Test Record  
To score the test manually: General Purpose answer sheet

**7. When should agencies switch to the Math GOALS series for ABE and ASE?**

Pre- and post-testing always must occur within the same test series. If agencies have used a series other than Math GOALS for pretesting, they must use that same series for post-testing. Please note that the Life Skills Math series is no longer approved for NRS reporting.

**8. If someone scores in the low-end range marked with an asterisk (\*), what is the policy for retesting?**

Examinees who score at the low-end range do not receive a scale score. If a student scores at the low-end range on a Level A/B test, CASAS suggests additional instruction before retesting the student on the alternate Level A/B test form. Those who score in the low-end range of a Level C/D test should take the Level A/B test form to obtain a scale score and NRS level.

**9. If someone scores in the high-end conservative-estimate range marked with a diamond (◆), must the person retest or can agencies use the high-end score?**

- a. *Pretest:* Examinees who score at the high conservative estimate/diamond range on an A/B pretest form should retest at the next highest test level.
- b. *Post-test:* Examinees who score at this range on an A/B post-test also should retest at the next highest test level. If it is not possible to administer another post-test because the semester is over or the student is unavailable, programs may use the post-test score, even **if it falls within the conservative estimate/diamond range.**

**10. Do the policies in questions 8 and 9 apply to agencies that must comply with NRS reporting requirements?**

Yes. Agencies should follow these same guidelines to meet NRS reporting requirements.

**11. What information regarding learning gains meets WIOA/NRS reporting requirements?**

Agencies and states report students' learning gains when students move from one NRS Educational Functioning Level (EFL) to another. The NRS system does not ask for student progress by scale score, only by EFL advancement. Please see the chart in question 12 that shows the NRS EFLs.

**12. What about agencies that do not report to NRS? How do they calculate learning gains?**

These agencies usually monitor students' learning gains by pre- and post-test scale scores.

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**13. How do Math GOALS scale score ranges compare to Life Skills Math scale score ranges and why are they different?**

For every new test series, CASAS convenes a national group of experts to participate in a standard-setting research study. For the new Math GOALS series, CASAS asked a panel of experienced adult education math practitioners to refer to the [new NRS Educational Functioning Level \(EFL\) Descriptors for Math](#) (see Appendix B-12) to determine where the cut scores for each EFL should be on more than 100 Math GOALS test questions ordered by difficulty level. These experts determined the Math GOALS scale score ranges for the new NRS levels.

The chart below shows the NRS EFLs for ABE/ASE and the related scale score ranges for the Life Skills Math series (on the left) and the new NRS EFLs for ABE/ASE Mathematics and the scale score ranges for the Math GOALS series (on the right). The new EFLs for ABE/ASE Mathematics contain a new Middle Intermediate level and merge Low and High Adult Secondary levels into Adult Secondary.

Life Skills Math NRS EFLs for ABE/ASE Mathematics	Life Skills Math 30 Series Scale Score Ranges	Math GOALS NRS EFLs for ABE/ASE Mathematics	Math GOALS 900 Series Scale Score Ranges
1 Beginning Literacy	200 and below	1 Beginning Literacy	193 and below
2 Beginning Basic	201-210	2 Beginning Basic	194 - 203
3 Low Intermediate	211-220	3 Low Intermediate	204 - 214
4 High Intermediate	221-235	5 High Intermediate	226 - 235
5 Low Adult Secondary	236-245	6 Adult Secondary	236 and above
6 High Adult Secondary	246 and above		

**14. Why are scale score ranges for Math GOALS higher than scale score ranges for Life Skills Math?**

Reading GOALS tests are academic and more rigorous than other CASAS reading tests. The higher scale score ranges are a reflection of the higher level of reading skills in the NRS Educational Functioning Level (EFL) Descriptors.

**15. Level A/B tests do not give a scale score until item 5. Level C/D tests do not do so until item 11. Why do students need to answer this number of questions to obtain a scale score?**

This ensures that students answer enough questions to assess their math level reliably.

**16. When can agencies begin using Math GOALS for NRS reporting?**

Agencies may begin using Math GOALS when they have permission from their state.

**17. How do agencies get started using Math GOALS in CASAS eTests?**

Agencies may edit their existing ABE and ASE instructional program templates to update multiple sessions sharing the templates. They also may contact the technical support team at [techsupport@casas.org](mailto:techsupport@casas.org) for assistance with editing or adding new templates with sessions for Math GOALS.

**18. What does Math GOALS offer for students who require accommodations?**

The Math GOALS series offers a Test Administration Manual (TAM) Supplement for Test-takers with Visual Impairment/Blindness. The TAM supplement provides guidelines on how to administer the Math GOALS test series to test-takers with visual impairment/blindness. Test form scripts for prompts, test questions, and answer options are included for the Reader/Scribe for all forms in the series. The *Tactile Graphics/Braille Supplement for Test-Takers with Visual Impairment and Blindness* accompanies the TAM supplement and provides tactile graphics and braille for those test items that require it. Math GOALS test forms in CASAS eTests are compatible with the JAWS screen reading software. Test-takers with visual impairment/blindness can listen to the test directions, a description of the prompts, test questions, and answer options.

**19. What can you tell me about the TOPSpro Enterprise system?**

This is CASAS-developed data accountability software that simplifies the testing process by scoring tests automatically, tracking student progress, generating highly useful reports, collecting demographics, managing data for state and federal accountability, and more. TOPSpro Enterprise can collect test results, whether from paper-based or online testing. The software exchanges data with more than 35 third-party vendors such as LACES, ASAP, BANNER, WAIVERS, and many others.

**20. Are TOPSpro Enterprise reports available for Math GOALS?**

Yes. Math GOALS test score reports are available in TOPSpro Enterprise. CASAS Competency reports as well as CASAS Math Content Standard reports are now available in the software.

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**21. Can agencies pretest with Life Skills Math while transitioning to Math GOALS?**

Pre- and post-testing always must occur within the same test series. If agencies have used a series other than Math GOALS for pretesting, they must use that same series for post-testing. Agencies should look at their testing timeline to determine when to begin using the Math GOALS series. The Life Skills Math Series is no longer approved for NRS reporting in ABE and ASE.

**22. Is there a chart that shows which CASAS tests have approval for NRS reporting?**

Yes. Click [here](#) for a chart or follow this path: [www.casas.org](http://www.casas.org) > Training and Support > WIOA and NRS Compliance > NRS Approval of CASAS

**23. What should agencies do with any math test materials that are no longer in use after the switch to Math GOALS?**

**Agencies should never use retired tests for test practice with students. Do not destroy Form 80 Appraisal materials if they are necessary for testing in Life and Work Listening.**

Please dispose of all test materials in the following manner:

1. Shred test booklets and test support materials.
2. Notify CASAS on school/agency letterhead with this information:
  - a. Number of test booklets and test forms shredded
  - b. Date of shredding
  - c. Signature of school/agency administrator
3. Retain a copy of the letter for agency records.

Be sure to visit the [CASAS Math GOALS](#) page at [CASAS.org](http://CASAS.org) for more information.

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