NRS Approval

1. **What is the NRS approval status of the new Math GOALS test series?**
   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.

Using Math GOALS

2. **Is Math GOALS available in CASAS eTests and on paper?**
   The Math GOALS test forms are available for online testing using CASAS eTests. Math GOALS also is available for paper testing.

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, but students may use physical calculators (not graphing calculators) while on CASAS eTests, if preferred.

   Programs that use paper tests should provide students with a calculator.
   Students may not use a personal calculator nor their cell phone calculator.
   Examples of appropriate calculators are Texas Instruments TI-30XS, TI-108 and TI 503SV, Casio SL-300SV, and other approved calculators for use on high school equivalency exams such as the GED, HiSET, and TASC assessments.

4. **Which locator or appraisal (placement) test should agencies use with Math GOALS?**
   Agencies that use CASAS eTests may use the Form 104M Math GOALS Locator test. The Form 900M Math GOALS Appraisal is the only appraisal appropriate for use with paper-based pre- and post-tests in the Math GOALS series.

5. **How long does a placement test 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.

6. **What pre- and post-tests does Math GOALS use?**
   The Math GOALS series includes pre- and post-test Forms 913M-914M at Levels A/B and Forms 917M-918M at Levels C/D.
7. Why does the Math GOALS test series combine Levels A and B into one form and Levels C and D into one form?

The Math GOALS test series covers priority content in all categories of the NRS Descriptors for ABE/ASE and the CCRS Math Standards and measures progress in the six NRS levels (EFLs) for ABE and ASE. Field-testing of new Math GOALS test questions determined that combined test levels were able to do this effectively.

8. How long are the Levels A/B and C/D in Math GOALS pre- and post-tests?

The Level A/B tests are 60-minute tests. Tests at Level C/D are 75-minute tests. Level A/B tests have 40 questions and tests at Level C/D have 38 questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Math GOALS</th>
<th>Timing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CASAS Level</td>
<td>Form Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/B</td>
<td>Form 913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/B</td>
<td>Form 914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/D</td>
<td>Form 917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/D</td>
<td>Form 918</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Which answer sheets should agencies use with the Form 900M Math GOALS Appraisal?

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

10. Which answer sheets should agencies use with 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

11. 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 available.

Math GOALS and Life Skills Math

12. How is the content of the Math GOALS series different from the content of 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.

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

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NRS EFLs for ABE/ASE</th>
<th>Life Skills Math 30 Series Scale Score Ranges</th>
<th>New NRS EFLs for ABE/ASE Mathematics</th>
<th>Math GOALS 900 Series Scale Score Ranges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Beginning Literacy</td>
<td>200 and below</td>
<td>1 Beginning Literacy</td>
<td>193 and below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Beginning Basic</td>
<td>201-210</td>
<td>2 Beginning Basic</td>
<td>194 - 203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Low Intermediate</td>
<td>211-220</td>
<td>3 Low Intermediate</td>
<td>204 - 214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 High Intermediate</td>
<td>221-235</td>
<td>4 Middle Intermediate</td>
<td>215 - 225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Low Adult Secondary</td>
<td>236-245</td>
<td>5 High Intermediate</td>
<td>226 - 235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 High Adult Secondary</td>
<td>246 and above</td>
<td>6 Adult Secondary</td>
<td>236 and above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Transitioning to Math GOALS**

14. **Can agencies pretest with Life Skills Math while transitioning to Math GOALS?**
No. It is crucial that pre- and post-testing always occurs within the same series to
ensure test reliability and validity.
15. 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 the Secondary Level Assessment Series or the Life and Work Listening 980 series. 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.

Interpreting Math GOALS Scores

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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 is there a 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.

NRS Reporting

19. 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.
20. 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.

21. In which instructional areas may agencies use the Math GOALS series?
   For WIOA/NRS reporting, programs may use Math GOALS only in ABE/ASE programs.

   Agencies that do not report data for WIOA may use the Math GOALS Series in any instructional program that includes mathematics.

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 > Training and Support > WIOA and NRS Compliance > NRS Approval of CASAS

Getting Started in CASAS eTests

23. 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 for assistance with editing or adding new templates with sessions for Math GOALS.

   Be sure to visit the CASAS Math GOALS page at CASAS.org for more information.