



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

FAQs

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

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) has approved the Reading GOALS test series for NRS reporting purposes through February 5, 2025, in the program areas of **Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Adult Secondary Education (ASE)**.

Agencies that do not report data to the USDOE may use the Reading GOALS series in any instructional program that focuses on reading comprehension. CASAS has submitted Reading GOALS for ESL/ELL to the USDOE for use in NRS reporting. When the series receives approval, CASAS will post an announcement on www.casas.org and notify all CASAS users by e-mail.

2. *How is the Reading GOALS series different from the Life and Work Reading series?*

Reading 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 Standards from beginning literacy through high adult secondary. Tests measure the academic vocabulary and higher-order thinking skills contained in the Standards. Test content continues to be based on CASAS Competencies to maintain relevance for adult learners, including an emphasis on employment-related topics required by WIOA.

3. *Which locator or appraisal (placement) test should agencies use with Reading GOALS? How long do these tests take?*

The **Form 104R Reading GOALS Locator** (used only in CASAS eTests) is a 15-minute test with 12 questions. The Locator automatically places the student in the correct pretest level.

The **Form 900R Reading GOALS Appraisal** is the only Appraisal appropriate for use with paper-based pre- and post-tests in the Reading GOALS series. The **Reading GOALS Appraisal** is a 30-minute test with 28 questions.

4. What pre- and post-tests does the Reading GOALS series use and how long do the tests take?

The series uses two parallel forms of pre- and post-tests at each of four academic levels: Level A (Forms 901R-902R), Level B, (Forms 903R-904R), Level C (Forms 905R-906R), and Level D (Forms 907R-908R).

The maximum time allowed for Level A tests is 60-minutes. Levels B, C, and D allow 75-minutes. Level A tests have 39 questions, while tests at Levels B, C, and D have 40 questions. The national average test time for Reading GOALS pre- and post-tests is 45 minutes.

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

5. Which answer sheets should agencies use with the Form 900R Reading GOALS Appraisal and the Reading GOALS pre- and post-tests?

To score tests with TOPSpro Enterprise software: TOPSpro Student Test Record
To score tests manually: General Purpose answer sheet

6. Can agencies pretest with Life and Work Reading while transitioning to Reading GOALS?

No. It is essential that pre- and post-testing always occurs within the same series to ensure test reliability and validity.

7. 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. Those who score in the low-end range of a Level B, C, or D test should take the next lower test form for a scale score and NRS level. If a student scores at the low-end range on a Level A test, CASAS suggests additional instruction before retesting the student on a Level A test.

8. 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 a pretest form should retest at the next highest test level.
 - b. *Post-test:* Examinees who score at this range on a 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.**
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9. Do the policies in questions 7 and 8 apply to agencies that must comply with NRS reporting requirements?

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

10. What information regarding learning gains meets 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. See the chart in question 12 that shows the NRS EFLs.

11. 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. See questions 7 and 8 for more details about testing and retesting policies.

12. What are the Reading GOALS scale score ranges compared to the Life and Work Reading scale score ranges?

**ABE/ASE NRS EDUCATIONAL FUNCTIONING LEVELS
AND CASAS READING SERIES SCALE SCORE RANGES**

NRS ABE/ASE Level	Life and Work Reading 80 series Scale Score Ranges	Reading GOALS 900 series Scale Score Ranges
1 Beginning ABE Literacy	200 and below	203 and below
2 Beginning Basic Education	201-210	204 - 216
3 Low Intermediate Basic Education	211-220	217 - 227
4 High Intermediate Basic Education	221-235	228 - 238
5 Low Adult Secondary Education	236-245	239 - 248
6 High Adult Secondary Education	246 and above	249 and above

13. Why are scale score ranges for Reading GOALS higher than Life and Work Reading scale score ranges?

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.

14. Levels B, C, D do not give a scale score 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 reading level reliably.

15. When should agencies switch to the Reading 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 Reading 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 Reading GOALS series.

The Life and Work Reading Series is no longer approved for NRS reporting in ABE and ASE, but is **approved for ESL students** through February 2, 2021.

16. How do agencies get started using Reading GOALS in CASAS eTests?

Agencies may edit their existing ABE/ASE instructional program templates to update multiple sessions sharing the templates. They also may contact techsupport@casas.org for assistance with editing or adding new templates with sessions for Reading GOALS.

17. What does Reading GOALS offer for students who require accommodations?

The Reading 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 Reading GOALS tests 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. Reading 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.

18. What can you tell me about your TOPSpro Enterprise system?

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

19. Are TOPSpro Enterprise reports available for Reading GOALS?

Yes. All test score reports and CASAS Competency reports as well as CASAS Content Standard reports are available in TOPSpro Enterprise software.

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

Yes. See <https://www.casas.org/training-and-support/wioa-and-nrs-compliance/nrs-approval-of-casas>

21. What should agencies do with any ABE/ASE reading test materials that are no longer in use after the switch to Reading 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.

Please be sure to visit www.casas.org/product-overviews/assessments/reading-goals
