

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 instructional 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.

In October 2018, CASAS will submit a reading series for use in ELL/ESL programs.

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). The series covers the full range of ability levels in the Standards, from beginning literacy through high adult secondary. Reading GOALS measures the rigorous 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. What pre- and post-tests does Reading GOALS use?

The Reading GOALS series uses pre- and post-tests at Level A (Forms 901R-902R), Level B, (Forms 903R-904R), Level C (Forms 905R-906R), and Level D (Forms 907R-908R).

4. Which appraisal or locator (placement) test should agencies use with Reading GOALS?

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. Agencies that use CASAS eTests Online for testing may use the Form 104R Reading GOALS Locator test.

5. How long is the Form 900R Reading GOALS Appraisal?

The appraisal is a 30-minute test with 28 questions.

6. Which answer sheets should agencies use with the Form 900R Reading GOALS Appraisal?

To score the test manually: General Purpose answer sheet

To score the test with TOPSpro Enterprise: TOPSpro Student Test Record

7. *Which answer sheets should agencies use with Reading GOALS pre- and post-tests?*

To score the test manually: General Purpose answer sheet

To score the test with TOPSpro Enterprise: TOPSpro Student Test Record

8. *How long are the Levels A, B, C, and D in Reading GOALS pre- and post-tests?*

The Level A tests are 60-minute tests. Tests at Levels B, C, and D are 75-minute tests.

Level A tests have 39 questions and tests at Levels B, C, and D have 40 questions.

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

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

10. *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.

11. *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.**

12. *Do the policies in questions 10 and 11 apply to agencies that must comply with NRS reporting requirements?*

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

13. *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. Please see the chart in question 13 that shows the NRS EFLs.

14. 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 8 and 9 for more details about testing and retesting policies.

15. What are Reading GOALS scale score ranges compared to Life and Work Reading 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

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

The 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.

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

18. Should agencies switch to the Reading GOALS series for ABE and ASE now?

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 to use the Reading GOALS series. Please note that the Life and Work Reading series has approval for NRS reporting through June 30, 2019. California agencies may begin using Reading GOALS for their ABE and ASE population now. Programs outside California should check with their appropriate state office to learn when they may begin using Reading GOALS.

19. 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 the technical support team at techsupport@casas.org for assistance with editing or adding new templates with sessions for Reading GOALS.

20. 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.

21. How soon can agencies begin using Reading GOALS for NRS reporting?

If agencies are already using CASAS eTests in HTML5 format, they may begin when they have permission from their state. Agencies may use WTUs (Web test units) to administer Reading GOALS tests.

22. 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>

23. What is the status of Reading GOALS in the QuickSearch Online database of curriculum and instructional materials?

Curriculum specialists are continuing their review of resource materials (textbooks, DVDs, software programs, websites) that correlate to the CASAS Competencies and Content Standards addressed in Reading GOALS. When they complete their work, CASAS will include the Reading GOALS series in QuickSearch Online.

24. 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 Life Skills Math, Secondary Level Assessment, or 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 www.casas.org/product-overviews/assessments/reading-goals