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.

   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](http://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 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 series use?**

   The 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? How long do they 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 **Form 900R Reading GOALS Appraisal** is a 30-minute test with 28 questions.
5. **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

6. **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

7. **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.

8. **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.

9. **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.

10. **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.

11. **Do the policies in questions 9 and 10 apply to agencies that must comply with NRS reporting requirements?**
    Yes. Agencies should follow these same guidelines to meet NRS reporting requirements.

12. **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 15 that shows the NRS EFLs.
13. **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 9 and 10 for more details about testing and retesting policies.

14. **What are Reading GOALS scale score ranges compared to Life and Work Reading ranges?**

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

15. **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.

16. **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.

17. **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 is not approved for NRS reporting, but had been approved through June 30, 2019.
18. 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.

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.

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.

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