

CASAS National News and Updates Webinar

October 11, 2023



Welcome to the October 2023 CASAS National Webinar

- Your phones and computers are muted.
- Presentation questions? **USE Q & A**
- Technical Difficulties? **USE CHAT**
- **PowerPoint** is already posted on the website.
- Webinar recording will be posted by **October 18.**
- <https://www.casas.org/social-media-newsroom/webinars>

Agenda

- Promising Practice Presentation: Remote Testing Hub
- Test Development Updates
- CASAS eTests Security Update
- Training Updates
- Upcoming Events

Time for a Poll!

Are you currently using remote testing at your program?



- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- What is remote testing?


Remote Testing Overview



Laura Fetter
Program Development Manager

What is Remote Testing?

Any computer-based testing with student and proctor in separate locations.



CASAS eTests allows remote testing at no additional cost.



Can be one-on-one or up to 15 students at a time.



CASAS provides support for different approaches on website.

Oregon Adult Basic Skills Online Assessment Hub Partnership

Donna Lewelling, State Director
Oregon Adult Basic Skills

Curtis Buell, Local ABS Director
Southwestern Oregon Community College

Any Questions?



Benefits of Remote Testing

- Improve paired-test rates
- Increase the number of Measurable Skill Gains achieved
- Assist adult learners dealing with obstacles to in-person testing (such as childcare, transportation, or work schedule conflicts)
- Assist programs dealing with interruptions to student testing due to staff shortages or inclement weather

Considerations for Remote Testing

Consider the student – what device will they be using to test? What are their digital literacy or English language skills? Has the student ever taken a test on eTests before?

Consider the proctor – how will remote testing be scheduled with students? What device will the proctor be using? Does the proctor have experience administering CASAS eTests?

Want to learn more?

<https://www.casas.org/product-overviews/remote-testing>

Time for a Poll!

Test Series Transition: What color leaf are you?



Red: Off the tree, floating on the STEPS and GOALS 2 breeze

Orange: Just about ready to let go and launch the new test series

Yellow: Testing the breeze, contemplating the changes ahead

Green: Holding tight to my branch and watching the others launch

Assessment Update

Daniel Esko
Assessment Development Program Manager

Laura Fetter
Program Development Manager

ESL Assessments - NRS Approved

Reading STEPS

Ready for use!

NRS-approved through

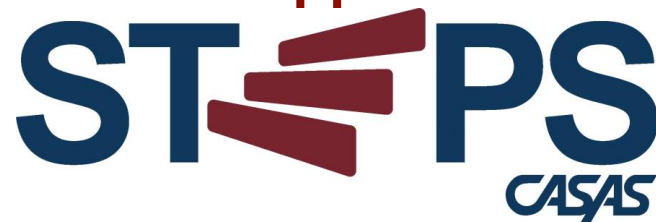
2030

Listening STEPS

Ready for use!

NRS-approved through

2030



ESL Assessments - NRS Approved

Life and Work Reading

**80 series and
Forms 27/28, 513/514**

Approved through
June 30, 2024

Life and Work Listening

980 series

Approved through
June 30, 2024

ABE Math Assessments - NRS Approved

Math GOALS



Approved through
June 30, 2024

Math GOALS 2



Ready for use!
NRS-approved through
2030

ABE Reading Assessments Current NRS Approval

Reading GOALS



NRS-approved through
March 2025

Reading GOALS 2



In development
Field Testing
October 2023
through June 2024

GOALS 2
CASAS™

STEPS
CASAS®



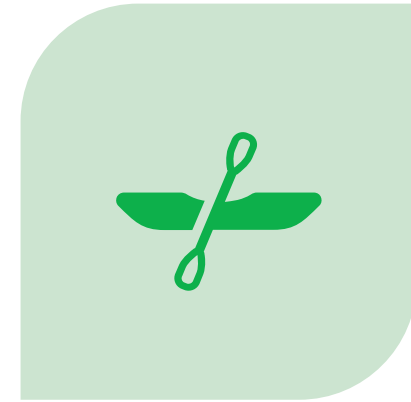
Possible Launch Scenarios



SPEED BOAT



LUXURY LINER



INFLATABLE BOAT

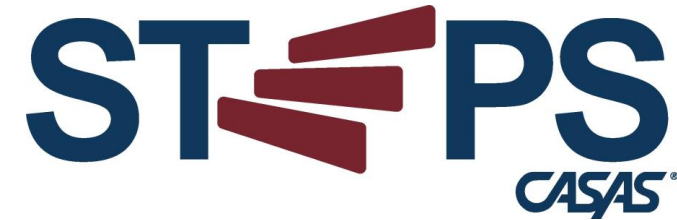


What are we learning from the speedboats?

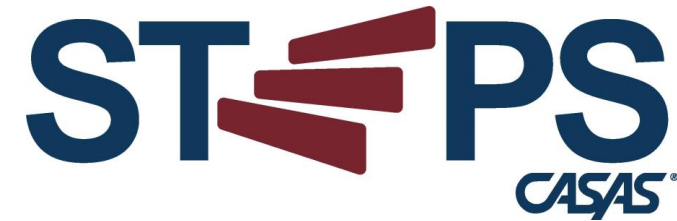


“Students may score lower on the STEPS series.”

Here's why:






-  The educational and workforce landscape has changed due to innovation and globalization.
-  Descriptors for the NRS Levels have been updated to reflect this change
-  Descriptors for the NRS Levels are aligned to the College and Competency Standards (CCRs) and English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPs)



These new alignments mean the new CASAS assessment series (Reading & Listening STEPS) are more rigorous.



This does not indicate that the student's ability has gone down; instead, their ability is aligning to the standards that describe each of the new NRS levels.

-  School intake placement processes may need to be modified.
-  Cut scores for program entrance may need to be modified.
-  Teachers may need additional training on the ELP and CCR Standards to address the increased rigor.



What other tips do the early adopters have to share?



- ❑ Start slowly: roll out Math GOALS 2 because it's not based on a new/different set of standards
- ❑ Prep staff before the rollout: engage with the new reports
- ❑ Take advantage of the documents on the CASAS webpage to familiarize staff with changes: Blueprints, FAQs, NRS charts, etc.
- ❑ Print out NRS level charts

Conservative Estimate Scores

CASAS strongly recommends **but does not require** that students who score in the conservative estimate range of a Level A, B, C, or D test (diamond scores) be retested at the next highest test level.

Conservative estimate scores will yield a scale score and a reportable NRS level if re-testing at a higher level does not occur.

CASAS eTests Test Security Update



**GOOD NEWS! The October 15th deadline
HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 15TH!**

Who does this affect?

This upgrade affects all test stations using Microsoft Windows™. Most Windows editions have the built-in test security feature we are adopting, called “Take a Test.”

How do I get started?

For a smooth transition, please download the [CASAS eTests Take a Test User Guide](#), and inform your local IT staff about this change.

Questions? Join us for weekly Test Security Office Hours!

Join us in this weekly meeting to ask any question about Take a Test. Visit [Office Hours](#) on the CASAS homepage to register.

Questions or concerns? Need advice for a mass rollout?

Don't hesitate to reach out to CASAS Tech Support at techsupport@casas.org or

Call us at 1-800-255-1036, option 2. We're here to help!

Training Update

Astrid Robitaille
National Program and Online Trainer Specialist

CASAS Training for the New Series

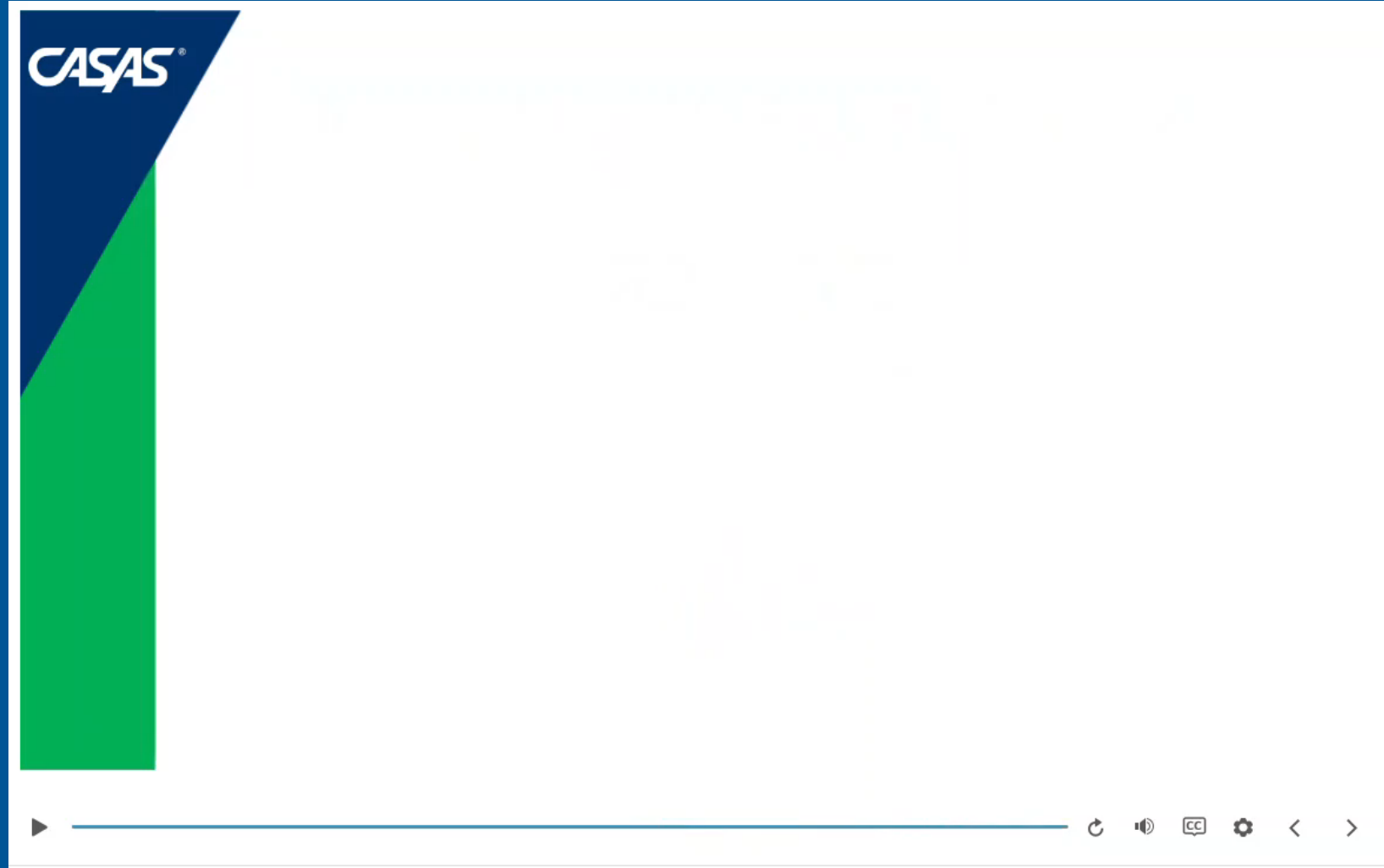


- No new training required with the new series.
- All current certifications remain valid.
- We are updating existing modules with new test series information and graphics.
- A supplemental module for the new test series is in the works!


SNEAK PEAK: New Test Series Course



We're just about to launch an informational training on the new STEPS and GOALS 2 test series.



What about Form 27/28?

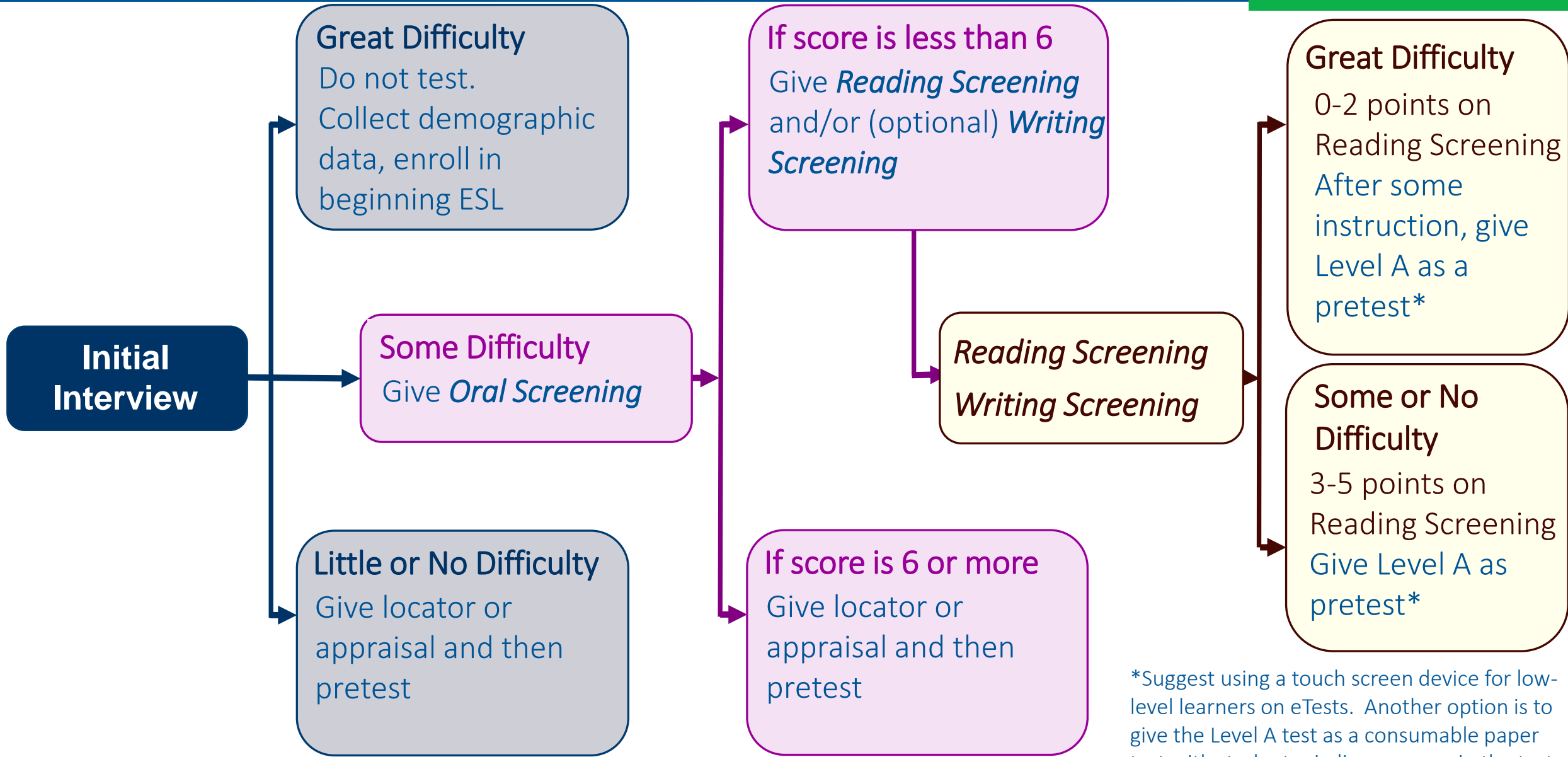
A photograph of a man with dark hair and a beard, looking upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression, his hand resting on his chin. A green thought bubble originates from his head, containing text.

Forms 27/28 are gone? What do I do with my low-literacy ESL students when they come into the program?

The STEPS Level A test may be administered as a consumable paper test with students circling answers in the test booklet.

A touch screen device is suggested for low-level learners on eTests.

Updated Intake Screening Guidelines for STEPS



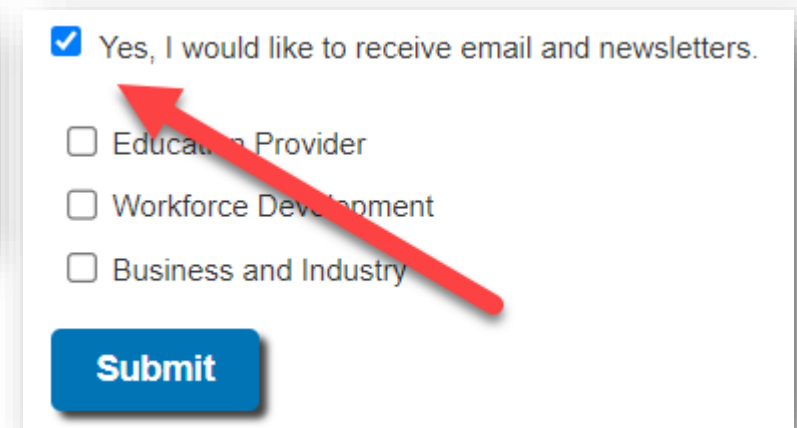
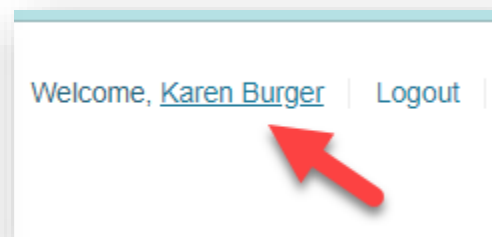
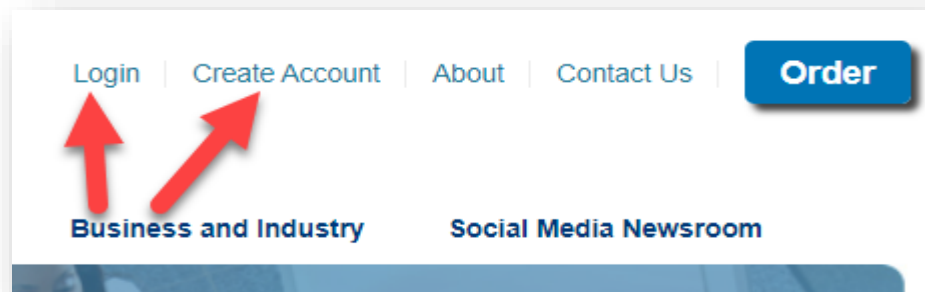
*Suggest using a touch screen device for low-level learners on eTests. Another option is to give the Level A test as a consumable paper test with students circling answers in the test booklet.

Upcoming Events

Karen Burger
National Program and Field Studies Specialist

Stay up to date!

- Login to CASAS.org or create an account
- Click your name to edit profile
- Check the box for “Yes, I would like to receive emails...”



Reading GOALS 2 Final Form Studies

When?

- Now – June 30, 2024

Who?

- All Levels ABE / ASE learners

Delivery?

- eTests and paper/pencil (on site and remote)

Methodology?

- Locator/Appraisal + One or two level field tests

Reading 2 Field Testing

Student Gift Cards

- \$15 for one completed field test
- \$40 to two completed field tests
- \$60 for three completed field tests

Complimentary Web-Testing Units

- 100 free WTUs / TEUs for participating!

Reading 2 Field Testing

Learning Gains Studies

- Students take a locator/appraisal + pre-test
- After 70-100 hours of instruction students take a post-test
- Paper/Pencil or eTests

Level A Field Testing

- No locator or appraisal
- Level A field test administered
- ABE Learners at NRS Level 1 or 2 in Reading

How do I get started?

- Communicate with teachers/administrators in program
- Create a plan for implementation
- Contact CASAS for support along the way!
- More info on the field-testing opportunities page at casas.org



Contact Karen Burger
fieldtesting@casas.org



What's New

Available now:

[Reading STEPS](#)

[Listening STEPS](#)

[Math GOALS 2](#)

[CASAS eTests Security Update
"Take a Test"](#)

[Accommodations and Accessibility](#)

Ongoing:

[Field Testing Opportunities](#)

[Getting started - CASAS eTests](#)

[Office Hours](#)



Overview: TOPSpro Enterprise

- Great for beginners
- Live zoom webinars hosted by CASAS Tech Support trainers
- **October 19, 2023**
- 11am--12:30 pm PST
- Register:



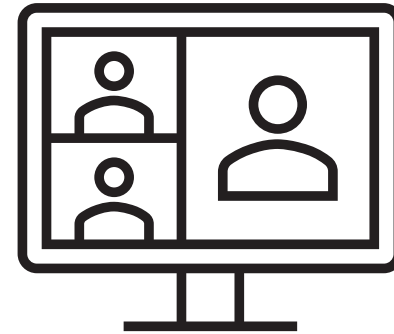
<https://www.casas.org/training-and-support/casas-live-facilitated-training>

Office Hours with CASAS Staff

- Attendees drive the sessions with their questions
- Join us for one-to-one support

Fridays, 11 a.m. Pacific / 2 p.m. Eastern

October 13	October 20 (Test Security)
October 27	November 3 (Test Security)
November 10	November 17 (Test Security)
December 8	December 1 (Test Security)
December 15 (Test Security)	



Register:

<https://www.casas.org/training-and-support/casas-live-office-hours>

Next News & Updates Webinar

- **Wednesday, December 6, 2023**
- 11 am Pacific/2 pm Eastern
- <https://tinyurl.com/CASAS-webinar>



What's New

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[Office Hours](#)

[Live Facilitated Training](#)

[News & Updates Webinars](#)







We are here for you!

Recording of this webinar and the PPT will all be posted in the What's New/News and Update Webinars section on the CASAS website.

- Summer Institute, casas-si@casas.org
- General CASAS Information, info@casas.org
- Order Department – orders@casas.org
- Field Testing – fieldtesting@casas.org
- Tech Support – techsupport@casas.org
- Training – training@casas.org
- eTests Implementation – golive@casas.org
- Remote Testing – remotetesting@casas.org



-  [/CASASsystem](#)
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-  [/CASASAssessment](#)

Thank You!

