CASAS TESTING

Pars Equality Center, LA
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ESL and Citizenship Education Program Manager
WHO WE ARE

Pars Equality Center’s mission is to catalyze social, civic and economic integration of immigrants from Persian-speaking and other countries into American society.

Legal Services

Social Services

Scholarship

Vocational English as a Second Language and Citizenship Instruction

https://parsequalitycenter.org/
• July 2020 : 20-21 Program year

• Community-Based Organization:
  ➢ Persian Speaking Immigrants
  ➢ Afghan Refugees

• ESL program Funding:
  ➢ 32%
  ➢ Grants from foundations
  ➢ Pars’ Annual Gala
HOW WE STARTED

- Complete the Implementation Trainings
- Order the material (Manual, booklets, CDs, answer sheets)
- Give the test
- Score and interpret the test results

February 2016: Main intake-placement system (paper-based tests)

- Individual oral interviews
- Those eligible take the listening/reading test on the same day
STUDENTS’ PROGRESS

- Requirement: CASAS pre-test and post-test on a regular basis
- ESL Textbooks: In compliance with the pre- and post-tests
- Test results: Required to report individual progress and skill level
- EX. Student’s progress based on the skill level descriptors for ESL.
REMOTE TESTING – MAY 2020

- Confirm system requirements
- Complete trainings and agency agreements
- Order eTests
- Request to set up an online account
- Add sites and enable eTests
- Add user accounts
- Register testing stations
- Conduct a trial run
- Retrieve results and generate reports

Thank you, CASAS Tech Support Team!
Los Angeles Site: Approximately 145 students / quarter
Class Setting: Remote and In-person
Learning Gain: Paired pre- and post-test
### Learning Gains Summary
First to High by Agency

**Agency:** 11988 - Pars Equality Center

**Program:** ESL/ELL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No of Students:</th>
<th>266</th>
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</table>

### CASAS Reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>First Test</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>High Test</th>
<th>Gain</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All test scores:</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>207.2</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>218.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paired accurate scores:</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>206.9</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>218.5</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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</tbody>
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![Graph showing learning gains in reading](image-url)
STUDENTS’ PERSISTENCE

- Close interaction with students
- Understanding cultural differences
- Integrated services
- Financial assistance
- Placement and evaluation of students’ progress
- Offering both remote and in-person classes (commute issues)
- Quarterly based ESL program offered in different levels
ENROLLMENT SYSTEM AND PLACEMENT

Generating Online Intake Forms: Google Forms / Online Registration Website

Gather all required information

Scheduling for placement tests

Online appointment system for placement
CONDUCTING REMOTE TEST

- One-on-one Zoom meetings
- Using multiple Zoom accounts
- Adding more testing stations
- Giving tests to two individuals at the same time
MANAGING REMOTE TESTING

- Greet the applicants on Zoom
- Interview
- Appraisal – Form 80 (Reading)
- Pre-Test (Life and Work Reading Series)
- Enroll
REMOTE TESTING SIMULTANEOUSLY

Applicant 1

- Oral Interview (5-10 minutes)
- Check demographic information
- Check submitted documents and ID
- Placed tentatively

- Appraisal (20-25 minutes)

- Pre-test (45-60 minutes)

- Save notes and enroll in the program

Applicant 2

- Wait time – gather ID and check the info page on eTest page

- Oral Interview (5-10 minutes)
- Check demographic information
- Check submitted documents
- Placed tentatively

- Appraisal (20-25 minutes)

- Pre-test (45-60 minutes)

- Save notes and enroll in the program
POST-TEST AND RETENTION STRATEGIES

Post-test:
- Given at the end of the quarter- Appointment based
- Part of the curriculum

Retention Strategies:
- Quarterly Orientation Sessions
- A requirement for continuing the program
- Part of the grading system
- Letter of English proficiency skills (for job seekers)
FINAL NOTES

Challenges:

- Technical Issues
- Digital literacy
- Providing tech support as needed by all our staff
- Timing and limited budget/staff
Women,
Life,
Freedom
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKPORYN5mCQ