

Handbook for
Adult Basic Education
and
Adult Secondary Education
Teachers

*Focus on WIA Title II
Accountability
Requirements*

An Interactive Resource
Guide for
New and Experienced
ABE/ASE Teachers

California Edition 2013

Introduction

The CASAS Handbook for Adult ABE/ASE Teachers provides new teachers the instructions and guidelines they need to fulfill program, state, and federal accountability requirements. The handbook gives some basic tools to maximize instruction based on information gained through CASAS testing and demographic data collection. It also functions as a reference guide for more experienced teachers.

As an ABE/ASE teacher, you will become familiar with a variety of procedures and terms. After reading this manual, you should have a basic understanding of:

- The CASAS system
- CASAS Testing
- CASAS Reports
- How to determine class and students' needs based on CASAS testing and reports

This manual is an interactive tool and a reference resource for teachers. It will help you become familiar with accountability procedures at your school site.



Where you see the  icon, take time to answer the questions. You may need to ask for assistance from your supervisor or a lead teacher in order to gather all the information. There is an answer key at the end of this Handbook.



Where you see the  icon, follow the link to the referenced document on the CASAS Web site at www.casas.org.

For the New Teacher

There is a wealth of information provided in this handbook. It is very important for you to understand how to use the CASAS system to help your students meet their learning goals. It is also important you understand what documents are required to maintain school funding. This handbook will help you see how all your work in testing and data collection can benefit you, your students, and your agency.

For the Experienced Teacher

Much of this information may be review for you, but chances are you will find out some things you didn't know about CASAS. Tips are provided to help with data management, to read various reports, to target instruction based on testing outcomes, and to find corresponding instructional materials.

Special thanks to Kathy Bywater and Laurel Leonard for their work in developing and creating this handbook. Many thanks go to Linda Taylor for her vision, leadership and advice, and to Andrea Dolney for her technical prowess in making the handbook look so wonderful. And to those of you in the field who were so generous with your feedback – thank you!

Patty Long, CASAS Program Specialist

Contents

SECTION 1: WHAT IS ADULT BASIC EDUCATION AND ADULT SECONDARY EDUCATION (ABE/ASE)?	1
<i>Types of agencies</i>	1
<i>ABE/ASE program characteristics</i>	1
<i>Adult ABE/ASE student characteristics</i>	1
<i>How are programs funded?</i>	2
SECTION 2: WHAT IS CASAS?	4
<i>What is TE?</i>	4
SECTION 3: COMPETENCIES, TASK AREAS, AND CONTENT STANDARDS	6
<i>What are Competencies?</i>	6
<i>What are Task Areas?</i>	7
<i>What are Content Standards?</i>	9
SECTION 4: STUDENT REGISTRATION, ORIENTATION, AND PLACEMENT	12
<i>What is the process for student registration?</i>	12
<i>What is the process for student orientation?</i>	12
<i>What is the process for placement?</i>	12
SECTION 5: ACCOUNTABILITY	14
<i>What is an Entry Record?</i>	14
<i>What is an Update Record?</i>	16
SECTION 6: CASAS TESTING	18
APPRAISAL, PRE- AND POST-TESTING OVERVIEW	18
1. <i>Place: Appraisals</i>	18
2. <i>Diagnose: Pretest</i>	18
3. <i>Instruct</i>	19
4. <i>Monitor: post-tests</i>	19
HOW DO I FILL OUT THE TEST RECORD FORM?	20
THE CASAS SCALE AND SKILL LEVEL DESCRIPTORS	20
<i>CASAS across the levels</i>	22
SECTION 7: ADMINISTRATION AND STORAGE OF TESTS	23
<i>How do I Administer CASAS Tests?</i>	23
Needed for testing day:	23
Preparation for testing	23
Getting started	23
Give the test	24
Test timing guidelines	24
SECTION 8: APPRAISALS, PRETESTS, AND POST-TESTS	25
APPRAISALS	25
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN APPRAISAL AND A PRE/POST-TEST?	26
<i>Appraisals</i>	26
<i>Pre- and Post-tests</i>	26
PRETESTS: HOW DO YOU KNOW WHICH PRETEST TO GIVE?	27
<i>Select a Pretest Level based on an Appraisal Score</i>	27
SCORES OUTSIDE THE ACCURACY RANGE	29

POST-TESTS	30
CASAS TEST PREPARATION	32
<i>Test Preparation Guidelines</i>	32
SAMPLE TEST ITEMS	33
CASAS eTESTS	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
CASAS READING AND MATH TESTS AND THE GED TEST	34
<i>Assessing Your ASE Students</i>	34
SECTION 9: USING TEST RESULTS	36
HOW DO I USE TEST RESULTS TO GUIDE INSTRUCTION?	36
HOW DO I SHARE TEST RESULTS WITH MY STUDENTS?.....	39
PRACTICE ACTIVITY: DEVELOP A WAY TO PRACTICE A COMPETENCY IN ANOTHER TOPIC AREA	41
HOW DO I FIND APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS TO TEACH THE COMPETENCIES?	42
CASAS QUICKSEARCH ONLINE.....	43
MULTIPLE MEASURES OF DOCUMENTING STUDENT PROGRESS	44
REVIEW	45
CASAS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES	45
REFLECTION	45
ANSWER KEY.....	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.

Section 1: What is Adult Basic Education and Adult Secondary Education (ABE/ASE)?

Adult Education ABE/ASE programs provide adults with literacy and language development skills necessary to participate effectively in the United States as productive citizens, workers, and family members. Reading, writing, speaking, and math are taught in the context of real-life situations.

Types of agencies

In California, Adult Education ABE/ASE programs vary in size and program offerings. Agencies providing Adult Education can be

- School districts
- Community colleges
- Library literacy programs
- Correctional facilities
- County offices of education
- Community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Faith-based organizations

ABE/ASE program characteristics

Depending on the size of the program and community needs, agencies may provide

- One ABE/ASE class
- More than one hundred classes
- Classes at the main campus
- Classes at an off-agency location
- Different classes for each skill (reading, writing, math)
- Integrated skill classes
- Single level classes (ABE high, ASE low....)
- Multi-level classes (students of multiple levels in the same class)

Adult ABE/ASE student characteristics

ABE/ASE students come to your program with

- A wide range of educational and cultural backgrounds
- Specific or generalized goals
- Widely varying levels of English language proficiency

The ABE population includes but is not limited to the following individuals:

- Adults with limited or no formal educational experience
- Native speakers of English and reasonably fluent nonnative speakers of English who want to improve their basic skills and life skills
- Adults with learning difficulties who may need extra support
- Unemployed or displaced workers who lack skills required for jobs or career technical education programs
- Adults with or without a high school diploma who are unable to read, write, or compute at the secondary education level
- Adults seeking a GED or high school diploma who need remediation in literacy and numeracy before moving on to adult secondary education

The ASE population includes but is not limited to the following individuals:

- Adults who can function at the secondary level (generally agreed to be at or above ninth grade level) who want to earn a GED or high school diploma
- Adults with learning difficulties who may need extra support
- Adults who function at the ABE level in one skill area i.e. math or writing, but at the ASE level in another skill area, i.e. reading
- Adults who have transitioned from ESL or ABE instructional levels
- Workers seeking additional skills for career technical education, employment, or job advancement
- Adults who want to transition to postsecondary programs that require a GED or high school diploma

How are programs funded?

Your agency probably receives funding from a variety of sources, including

- State apportionment (Average Daily Attendance)
- Federal funds – Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title II funds
- Any number of state programs

Agencies receiving CDE state apportionment* are encouraged to collect

- Student demographics (Entry Records)
- Track student progress and goals (Update Records)

** Check with your agency regarding their policy.*

Agencies receiving federal funding are required to collect

- Student demographics (Entry Records)
- Track student progress and goals (Update Records)
- Pre- and post-test for each student (Test Records)

This handbook provides teachers with the information they need to meet state and federal requirements.



Gather the Information: Ask a Supervisor or Lead Teacher

1. What kind of agency do you work for (adult school, CBO, etc.)?
2. Is your class single-level or multi-level?
3. Is your class a single subject or a multi-subject class?
4. How many ABE/ASE classes are offered by your district or agency both on- and off-site?

Section 2: What is CASAS?

CASAS — Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems — is a nonprofit organization. It provides standardized assessments and other tools needed to collect and report student information and learning progress.

With the CASAS system, agencies can establish measurable goals, place students into appropriate instructional levels, document student progress and outcomes, and report program success to students, staff, local boards, and policymakers, while meeting the requirements of the WIA Title II program.

There are four key components of the CASAS system. This teachers' handbook will direct you through each of the components and demonstrate how they work together.



Gather the Information: Ask a Supervisor or Lead Teacher

CASAS Training and Accountability contacts at my site:

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

What is TE?



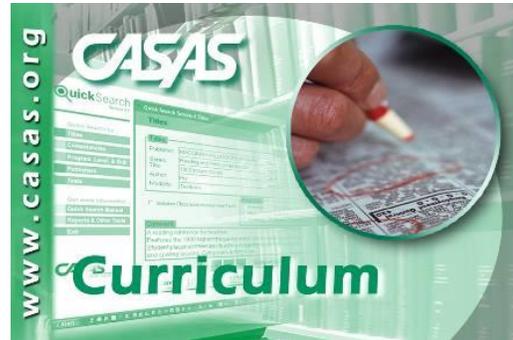
California agencies use a computer-based management information system called Tracking of Programs and Students Program, or ***TOPSpro Enterprise (TE)***, to track and process CASAS data. Information from Entry, Update, and Test Records are monitored through this software program.

TE can generate reports for students, teachers, and administrators. It also compiles data to meet both state and federal funding requirements. TE provides reports that help instructors target appropriate instruction based on what skills students have and need to have for level completion.

The ***TE Management Information System***:

- Scores CASAS tests
- Identifies missing information in data collection
- Tracks student progress and goal attainment
- Suggests the next test
- Identifies inaccurate scores
- Generates reports for students, teachers, administrators and funding sources

Section 3: Competencies, Task Areas, and Content Standards



Competencies, Task Areas, and Content Standards create the foundation for the CASAS curriculum. Separately, they provide life skills contexts, a variety of visual prompts, and the underlying basic academic skills that together work as the ladder to successful attainment of the curriculum objectives.



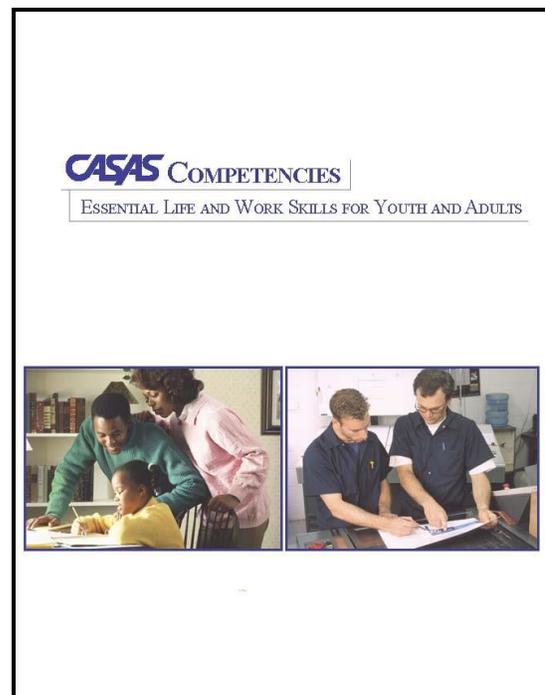
[Home](#) > [Product Overviews](#) > [Curriculum Management & Instruction](#) > [CASAS Competencies](#)

What are Competencies?

A competency is a measurable learning objective written in a functional life skills context. CASAS Competencies specifically address essential skills for life and work. CASAS tests are aligned to these competencies.

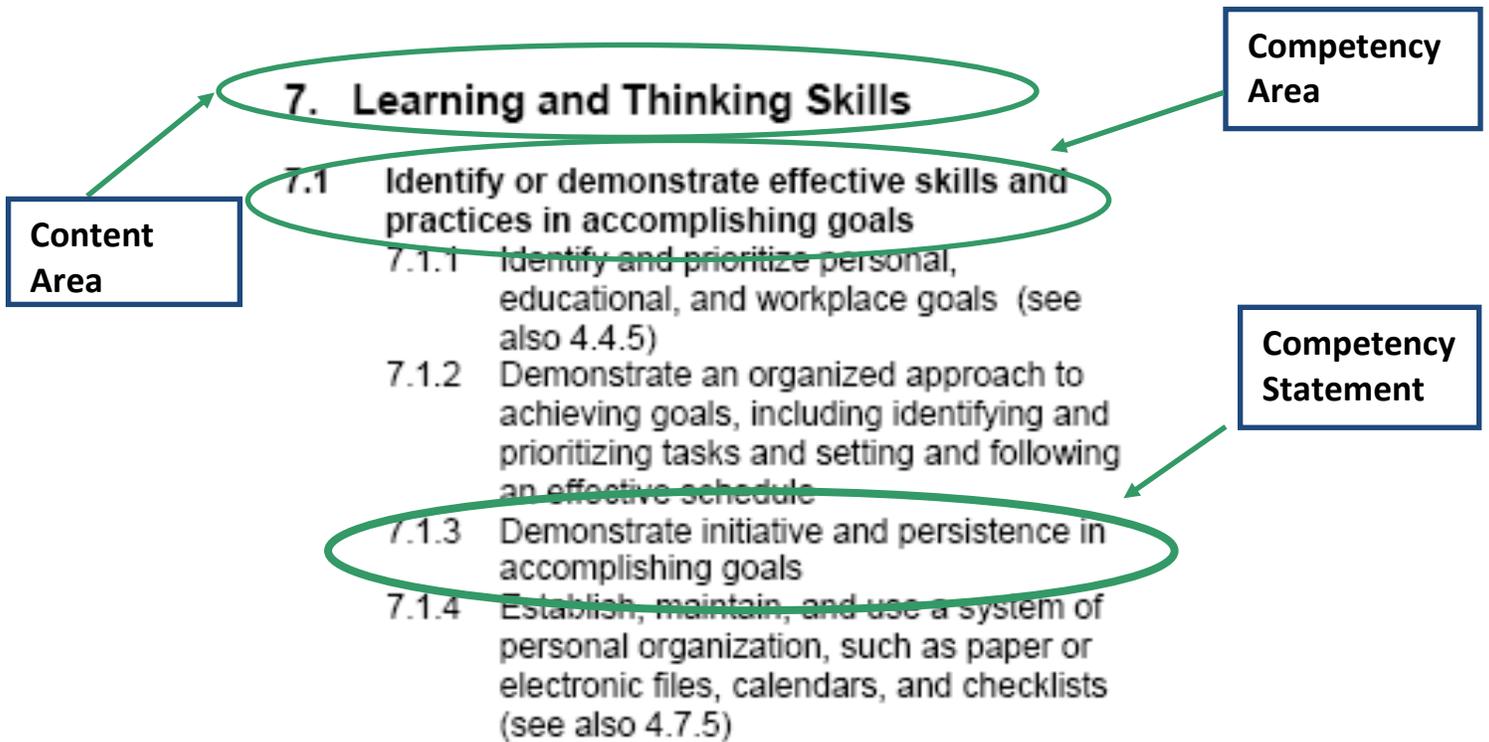
There are nine CASAS Competency Content Areas:

0. Basic Communication
1. Consumer Economics
2. Community Resources
3. Health
4. Employment
5. Government and Law
6. Math
7. Learning and Thinking Skills
8. Independent Living



Under each of the nine *Content Areas* are *Competency Areas*. And finally, more specific *Competency Statements* give the clear objective for students to achieve.

Each *Content Area* is identified by a number, 0-8. This is followed by *Competency Area* and *Competency Statement* numbers, which creates the 3-digit **Competency Coding System**.



The **CASAS Competencies** identify essential life skills that youth and adults need to be functionally competent members of their community, their family, and the workforce. These critical competencies provide instructional objectives for curriculum, direct links to test content for monitoring student learning, criteria for program evaluation, and a referencing system for instructional materials.

The competencies are relevant across the full range of instructional levels, from beginning literacy through high school completion including transition to postsecondary education and training.

What are Task Areas?

Task Areas are the written or graphic prompts in CASAS tests. These *Task Areas* are vital to student instruction, as students must not only be able to read a sentence, but must be able to understand vocabulary in multiple contexts, e.g. advertisements, newspaper articles, utility bills, or charts and graphs.

Task Areas	
0.	General
1.	Forms
2.	Charts, maps, consumer billings, matrices, graphs, or tables
3.	Articles, paragraphs, sentences, directions, or pictures
4.	Signs, price tags, ads, or product labels
5.	Measurement scales and diagrams
6.	Oral Cue

Teachers need to be familiar with these *Task Areas* so that they can target instruction for students to learn and practice a competency or content standard within these *Task Areas*.

Note: Each *Task Area* shows as the fourth digit of the CASAS coding system, seen on many TE reports you will use to plan instruction.

The following sample test item assesses reading in the context of retail store chart. Each test item on a CASAS test is coded by competency and task area. This particular Level B test item has been coded to:

Competencies:

- 4.4.3 Interpret job-related signs, charts, diagrams, forms, and procedures, and record information on forms, charts, checklists, etc.
- 4.7.4 Identify, secure, evaluate, process, and/or store information needed to perform tasks or keep records

Task Area:

- 2 (Charts, maps, consumer billings, matrices, graphs, or tables)

Content Standards:

- M1.2.13 Add two or three-digit numbers
- M5.1.1 Identify, count and extract data in lists, tables and charts

Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
62	75	80	88	110	140

This chart shows the number of customers that entered Bertha's Jewelry Shop during the week. What was the total number of customers on Friday and Saturday?

- A. 150
- B. 240
- C. 250
- D. 350

What are CASAS Basic Skills Content Standards?



[Home](#) > [Product Overviews](#) > [Curriculum Management & Instruction](#) > CASAS Basic Skills Content Standards

Content Standards are the underlying academic basic skills that should be taught in the context of CASAS Competencies. Teaching *Content Standards* (e.g., reading numbers) provide students the basic skill foundation students need to be successful in mastering the competencies (e.g. interpret wages, deductions)

CASAS Basic Skills Content Standards are categorized by a letter and numbering system. The letter designates the skill area. For ABE/ASE, there are Content Standards for reading and math skills. Content Standards for writing and speaking are in development.

Within each *Content Standard Category* there are a number of *content standards* listed in order of difficulty.

- R1 Beginning literacy/phonics
- R2 Vocabulary
- R3 General reading comprehension
- R4 Text in format
- R5 Reference materials
- R6 Reading strategies
- R7 Reading and thinking skills
- R8 Academic-oriented skills
- R9 Literary Analysis (ABE/ASE only)

Reading



- L1 Phonology
- L2 Vocabulary
- L3 Grammar
- L4 General Discourse
- L5 Informational Discourse
- L6 Strategies and Critical Thinking

Listening



- M1 Number Sense
- M2 Algebra
- M3 Geometry
- M4 Measurement
- M5 Statistics, Data Analysis and Probability

Math



- W1 Beginning Literacy
- W2 Spelling and Mechanics
- W3 Grammar and Sentence Structure
- W4 Vocabulary/Word Choice
- W5 Organization
- W6 Content
- W7 Writing for Varied Purposes
- W8 Academic-oriented Skills

Writing



- S1 Phonology/ Pronunciation
- S2 Vocabulary
- S3 Grammar
- S4 General Discourse
- S5 Informational Discourse
- S6 Strategies and Critical Thinking

Speaking



Tie It Together

Imagine you're planning to teach a lesson on reading medicine labels to an intermediate low class.

What are all the skills you must teach so that students can perform this task?

Look at the

Content Area

3. Health

Competency Area

3.4 Understand basic health & safety procedures

Competency Statements

3.4.1. Interpret product label directions and safety warnings

Once you determine student level and the Competency Statement, ask your agency's TE staff for your **Class by Competency Report** that will provide you with the

Task Area

3. Stories, articles, paragraphs, sentences, directions, or pictures

4. Signs, price tags, ads, or product labels

Content Standards (Reading)

Vocabulary

R2.3 Interpret common high-frequency words and phrases in everyday contexts (e.g., labels)

R2.7 Interpret abbreviations in specialized contexts (e.g., tsp.)

General reading comprehension

R3.2 Read and understand simple sentences that contain familiar vocabulary

R3.6 Interpret simple written instructions

R3.10 Follow pronoun references within a text (e.g., This is important.)

R3.12 Use supporting illustrations to interpret text

Text in format

R4.10 Interpret written materials using formatting clues (e.g., headings, captions, bullets, print features such as bold)

Reading strategies

R6.1 Predict the content of a text from title, pictures, type of material

R6.2 Scan simple text (e.g., ads, schedules, forms, paragraphs) to find specific information

Section 4: Student Registration, Orientation, and Placement

What is the process for student registration?

During the registration process, personal information as well as certain demographic information required by the program is collected from the students. Sometimes this is a scan form (scannable “bubble sheet” form), or a regular paper fill-in form, or an online form. The information obtained at registration is necessary for the student **Entry Record** forms.

Additionally, an appraisal (or placement test) of students’ English language and math skills is conducted at this time for correct placement in their new class. Some agencies include a student orientation during the registration process.

What is the process for student orientation?

For students to meet their language-learning goals, a comprehensive orientation, including goal setting, needs to take place as close to the time of enrollment as possible. Some registration processes include orientations, while others expect teachers to provide an orientation for their students. Minimally, the following information should be shared with students:

- Programs offered/class schedules
- Rules and regulations
- Safety and emergency procedures
- How to set learning goals and steps to reaching goals

Needs assessments and goal setting are an important part of orientation. Identifying students’ needs and goals is a powerful way to guide instruction and encourage student motivation and retention. There are a variety of goal setting activities that the teacher can do at the beginning of a class. For example, teachers may use a goal-setting questionnaire and steps for goal achievement, list goals and record what students learn in each class in a daily log, or even have the students set a “whole-class” goal for each week or term.

What is the process for placement?

Students are generally placed in class by skill level area (ABE, ASE, GED Preparation), goal or by proximity to a class site. Once a student registers, the student should take an appraisal followed by a CASAS pretest.



Gather the Information

- Locate a registration form that your site uses and place it in this handbook. Is it a fill-in form, bubble-in form, or an online form?



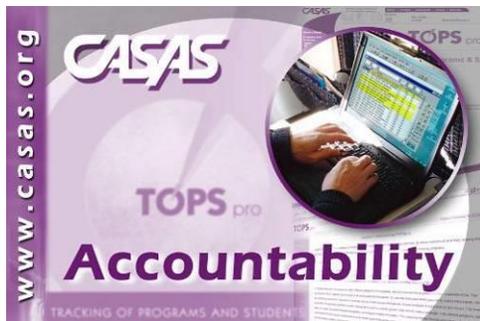
Ask a Supervisor or Lead Teacher – Registration and Placement

1. Where do students go to register at your site?
2. When can they register?
3. What type of appraisal is given?
4. Who gives the appraisal?
5. Who determines class placement for each student?
6. How is class placement determined?



Ask a Supervisor or Lead Teacher – Orientation and Goal Setting

1. When is student orientation at your site?
2. Are there orientation materials available for you to use? If so, what are they? Place a master set in this packet for your reference.
3. What goal setting activities are conducted in your program?
4. What goal setting activities do you plan to use with your class?



Section 5: Accountability

All students in WIA Title II programs who have accumulated 12 or more hours must have an Entry Record and an Update Record along with a pre- and post-test. This section reviews the Entry and Update Records.

What is an Entry Record?

Entry Records are required for every student in your agency and include fields to collect demographics, such as student gender and date of birth. These records are used to monitor the student's reasons for enrollment, program they are enrolled in (ABE or ASE), and level.

Many agencies complete Entry Records through registration. However, if you are responsible for filling out the Entry Record with your students, remember that it is important to gather all the information. This information will help determine whether the students' needs are being met by your agency. It is also vital for federal funding.



Ask a Supervisor or Lead Teacher

At your site, are teachers required to fill out the Entry Record form?

- If not, who completes it?
- When must it be completed?

What is an Update Record?

An **Update Record** provides important information about a student, including status in the program, progress, learner results, instructional level at update, and reason for changing or exiting the program or class. Teachers complete an **Update Record** to document completed student outcomes.

While some agencies are moving toward a system of completing Update Records online through their attendance system, most agencies still have their teachers fill out these forms by hand.



Ask a Supervisor or Lead Teacher

1. Are Update Records automatically generated for your dropped students or do you need to request them?
2. If you need to request them, from whom do you request them?
Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
3. List three ways you know if your students have reached their personal, family, and/or academic goals? (student portfolios, interviews, etc.)

Sample Update Record

Depending on your agency's procedures, you will need to complete an Update Record at the end of a semester, end of the fiscal year, or once you have dropped a student from your class. Please refer to the CASAS Administration Manual for California (your administrator and TE staff will have a copy) for more detailed instructions.

TOPS
Tracking Of Programs and Students

Agency # 1964 Site #

Update Record

Acuna Rosalina

Staff, Person 1530 Main Street James Town

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION

1	3	4	2	5	0	9	8
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

DATE OF CLASS UPDATE

09 04 11

HOURS OF INSTRUCTION

0034

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

- Basic Skills (ABE)
- ESL
- ESL / Citizenship
- Citizenship
- High School Diploma
- GED
- Spanish GED
- Career / Tech Ed
- Workforce Readiness
- Adults w/ Disabilities
- Health & Safety
- Home Economics
- Parent Education
- Older Adults
- Other

STATUS (Mark one)

- Retained in program
- Left program
- No show or did not attend at least 12 hours

PROGRESS (Mark highest)

- Progressed within level or program
- Completed level or program
- Advanced to a higher level or program

LEARNER RESULTS (Mark all that apply)

WORK	PERSONAL / FAMILY	COMMUNITY	EDUCATION
<input type="checkbox"/> Got a job	<input type="checkbox"/> Increased involvement in children's education	<input type="checkbox"/> Achieved U.S. Citizenship skills	<input type="checkbox"/> Returned to K-12
<input type="checkbox"/> Retained job	<input type="checkbox"/> Increased involvement in children's literacy related activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Registered to vote or voted for first time	<input type="checkbox"/> Passed GED
<input type="checkbox"/> Met work-based project goal	<input type="checkbox"/> Met other family goal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased involvement in community activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Earned certificate
<input type="checkbox"/> Entered job training	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Earned high school diploma
<input type="checkbox"/> Entered apprenticeship			<input type="checkbox"/> Entered college
<input type="checkbox"/> Gained workforce readiness			<input type="checkbox"/> Entered training program
<input type="checkbox"/> Received public assistance			<input type="checkbox"/> Gained computer skills
			<input type="checkbox"/> Mastered course
			<input type="checkbox"/> Completed educational plan
			<input type="checkbox"/> Other

CLASS NUMBER

01006013

INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL (Mark one)

ESL	Basic Skills (ABE)
<input type="checkbox"/> Beg. Literacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Beg. Literacy
<input type="checkbox"/> Beg. Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Beginning
<input type="checkbox"/> Beg. High	<input type="checkbox"/> Int. Low
<input type="checkbox"/> Int. Low	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Int. High
<input type="checkbox"/> Int. High	<input type="checkbox"/> ASE Low
<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced	<input type="checkbox"/> ASE High
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed
<input type="checkbox"/> Adv. High	<input type="checkbox"/> ASE High

SKILL LEVEL

0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9

REASON FOR EXITING (Mark one or leave blank)

- Changed class or program
- Completed Program
- Met goal
- Got a job
- Moved
- Schedule conflict
- Lack of child care or program
- Family problems
- Own health problems
- Lack of interest
- Public safety
- Administratively separated
- Unknown reason
- Other known reason

Sub-sections of GED passed

High School credits earned

0.5 1.0 2.0 3.0

Box 4 – Date of Class Update
Mark the last date of attendance for the student or the date you are completing the Update.

Box 7 – Status
Mark "Retained in Program" if the student has changed to another teacher's class, you think s/he may return, or it's June and the student plans to continue in the summer. Mark "Left Program" if the student has not been in class for 90 consecutive days.

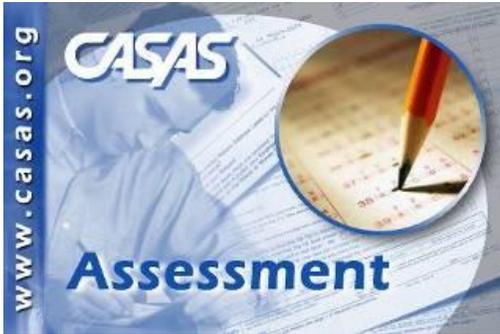
Box 9 – Learner Results
This is your chance to show all the things your student has accomplished while in your class.

Box 8 – Progress
Mark one. "Progressed..." for those who have not completed a level (e.g. Int. Low) or program (e.g. ABE). "Completed" for those who have completed a level or program, but are not currently receiving instruction at the next level or anywhere in your program. "Advanced..." for those now receiving instruction in your program at a higher level than stated on their Entry Record.

Box 11 – Instructional Level – Not Required
Mark the level that the student performs at in class. Use the CASAS Skill Level Descriptors to help you decide.

Box 13 – Reason for Exiting
Must complete if Box 7 is marked "Left Program." Otherwise, this is a great tool for determining agency needs. Mark the one that most closely applies. Mark "End of Program Year" if students will continue into the next fiscal year.

Box 14 – GED
For GED classes only. Mark each section passed.

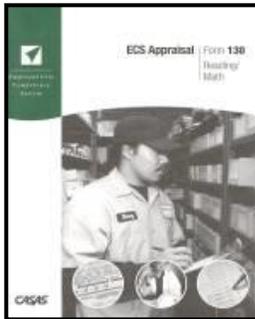


Section 6: CASAS Testing

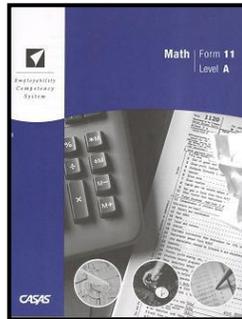
What is CASAS testing and what is my responsibility?

Appraisal, pre- and post-testing overview

1. Place



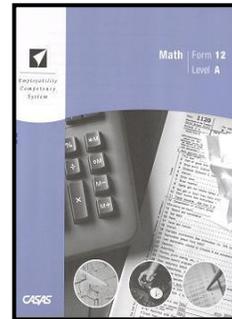
2. Diagnose



3. Instruct



4. Monitor



1. Place: Appraisals

The purpose of the Appraisal Process is to:

- determine readiness for a program (ABE/ASE, VABE/ASE, etc.) and instructional level for the student
- identify the correct CASAS pretest level

At the time of registration, students should be given an appraisal to determine their English language skill and literacy level. Some agencies have developed their own appraisal system. Most often, the registration process for new ABE/ASE students includes a reading and/or math appraisal. Agencies use the **CASAS Form 80 Appraisal** for reading and/or the **CASAS ECS Appraisal Form 130** for math and reading.

The appraisal is not a pretest, but a tool to determine the correct pretest.

2. Diagnose: Pretest

The *pretest* is given upon entry into the program. "Pretest" denotes the first CASAS test administered to students after an appraisal. The pretest measures what a student knows at the beginning of your class. The results of the pretest help determine the learning needs of your students and help guide instruction.

3. Instruct

Instruction is a time for ongoing, informal assessment. Instruction is guided by pretest results. You will learn more about test results reports and finding appropriate instructional materials in Section 9.

4. Monitor: post-tests

The post-test measures what the student knows after completing a substantial number of hours in your class. These test results help you monitor the progress the student is making in your class.

Each student takes a minimum of two (2) CASAS tests while enrolled in your class: a pretest and a post-test. Additional post-tests may be administered throughout the year to continue to monitor progress.

You must be trained to administer these tests by someone at your agency that has been certified by CASAS. Only staff who has completed CASAS Implementation Training may train you. These test trainers must re-certify their training each year.

Testing students with standardized tests helps in correct placement for class or level, measures learning from one test to the next, and provides information regarding strengths and weaknesses in particular skill areas so that they can be addressed. While CASAS has also developed assessments that are appropriate to measure writing and speaking skills. California agencies only report reading and math learning gains to meet federal requirements for ABE/ASE programs.

- For pre- and post-testing in **reading**, most ABE/ASE programs use the *Life and Work Series*. Some programs use the *Employability Competency Series* (ECS) to test reading if the students are focusing on job skills.
- For pre- and post-testing in **math**, most programs use the *ECS Series*; the *Life Skills Series* has also been used, if appropriate.

Each CASAS test series has its own *Test Administration Manual*. It is very important to refer to the *Test Administration Manual* of test series you are using, as score charts and testing instructions are different for each test series.

It is important to remember that if a reading pretest is administered, the post-test must also be a reading test in the same series; a math pretest must be followed by a math post-test. Reading and math tests are not interchangeable. However, you may pre- and post-test with a reading test **and** a math test. Check with your agency to find out what guidelines have been determined for your agency.



Ask a Supervisor or Lead Teacher

1. Which CASAS test series is used in your class?
2. Where can you access the Test Administration Manual?
3. Which skills are tested? Reading, Math, or both?

How do I fill out the Test Record form?

To ensure that all testing data is submitted correctly, you must fill in the *Test Record form* accurately. On the Test Record form, there are important fields that need to be completed. Some agencies preprint (or “pre-slug”) the forms with students’ information. Otherwise, each form needs to be filled in by hand.

Sample Test Record

① Student Last Name
Make sure that the name appears *exactly* as it does on your attendance records.

② Instructor Name
Please print if not pre-slugged for you.

③ Student Identification
Use the ID number found on your attendance records.

④ Form Number
This number is found on front of the test booklets. Use a leading 0 – for example, write 082R or 082RX (Reading test).

⑤ Test Date
Mark the date the student takes the test.

⑥ Class Number
Mark your class number here.

⑦ Instructional Program
Mark the one that applies to your class. Check with your TE staff if you’re not sure which one to mark.

⑨ Raw Score
To scan information for forms 27R and 28R, write the number correct here.

Practice
Use this box for students to mark their answers to the practice items in the test booklet.

Directions for marking answers
Use this box to review with your students how to bubble in their answers.

Is this your SSN?
Mark “No” if ③ is blank or if using a site-assigned number.

Student does not yet have the skills to be tested.

** required for TOP software*

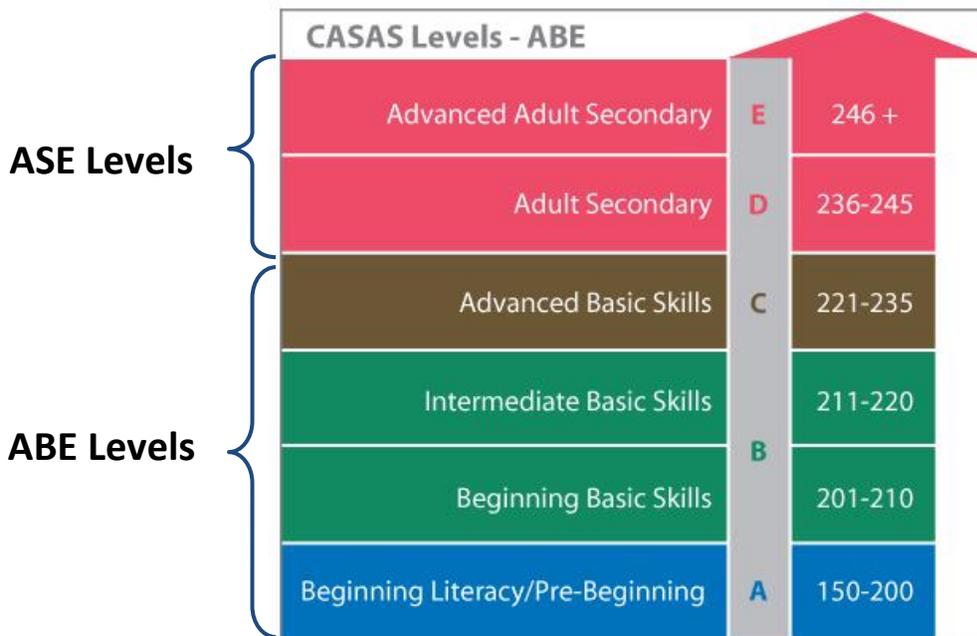
If you have a student who is unable to get a valid score on a form 27R or 28R, mark this box. Don't forget to re-test the student after s/he has completed some class time!

The CASAS Scale and Skill Level Descriptors

Results from CASAS tests are translated from a raw score (the number correct) to a scale score, and relate to a unique numerical scale showing level of proficiency.



[Home](#) > [Product Overviews](#) > [Curriculum Management & Instruction](#) > [CASAS Scale, Skill Levels, and Descriptors](#)



Each proficiency level defined by this CASAS scale score range corresponds to descriptors of performance in terms of employment and adult life skills. These *Skill Level Descriptors* describe in positive terms what a person is able to do or learn within a range of the scale scores.

Keep in mind that the descriptors only apply to the type of test given. For example, if a student took a reading test, only the reading descriptors at that determined level are applicable to that student. Do not assume that the math, reading or writing skills are at the same level.

Below is an excerpt from the Skill Level Descriptors for ABE/ASE.

<p>220</p> <p>215</p> <p>210</p> <p>205</p> <p>200</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>Intermediate Basic Skills Can handle basic reading, writing, and computational tasks related to life roles. Can read and interpret simplified and some authentic materials on familiar topics. Can read and interpret simplified and some authentic materials on familiar topics. Can interpret simple charts, graphs, and labels; interpret a basic payroll stub; follow basic written instructions and diagrams. Can complete a simple order form and do calculations; fill out basic medical information forms and basic job applications; follow basic oral and written instructions and diagrams. Can handle jobs and/or job training that involve following basic oral or written instructions and diagrams if they can be clarified orally.</p>
		<p>Beginning Basic Skills Can fill out simple forms requiring basic personal information, write a simple list or telephone message, calculate a single simple operation when numbers are given, and make simple change. Can read and interpret simple sentences on familiar topics. Can read and interpret simple directions, signs, maps, and simple menus. Can handle entry level jobs that involve some simple written communication.</p>

CASAS across the levels

Here are examples of test items (or questions) at three different levels along the CASAS scale. Each test question has a display (a picture or a cue) which the student reads, and then a question with four multiple choice answers to select from.

Competency 2.1.7: Take or interpret telephone messages

The diagram illustrates three levels of CASAS test items on a scale from 150 to 250. Arrows point from the scale to the level descriptions and their corresponding test item displays.

- A Level (185):** Question: "Who is coming?"
Options: A. today, B. Sara, C. Dan, D. Amy.
Display: A note with the time 8:30, the text "Sara - Dan is coming today at 11:00.", and the name "Amy".
- B Level (205):** Question: "When does the caller want to meet?"
Options: A. at 8:20, B. on 3/15, C. on Monday, D. downtown.
Display: A "WHILE YOU WERE OUT" message form with fields for Date (3/15), Time (8:20), To (Lisa), From (Mr. Harper), and Of (Lofton College). It includes checkboxes for "Telephoned", "Returned your call", "Please call", "Will call again", and "Urgent". The message text is "Can you meet him downtown on Mon. at 1:30?". The "Taken by" field is filled with "Paula".
- C Level (221):** Question: "What should be done with this message?"
Options: A. Paula should give it to Mr. Harper, B. Mr. Harper should give it to Lisa, C. Lisa should give it to Mr. Harper, D. Paula should give it to Lisa.

CASAS Implementation Training © CASAS 2003

A Level: The student reads a simple note, and selects the answer A, B, C, or D to a simple question: "Who is coming?" This question is at a reading level of 185 on the CASAS scale.

B Level: The student reads the message and selects the answer to "When does the caller want to meet?" This type of question is at a reading level of 205 on the CASAS scale.

C Level: The question may require some critical thinking. "What should be done with this message?" is a question that is at a reading level of 221 on the CASAS scale.

No entity (individual, school, program or business enterprise) may use or copy displays, questions, or answers that appear on any CASAS test to create materials to teach or to prepare students to answer CASAS test items.

Section 7: Administration and Storage of Tests

Anyone who administers CASAS tests must be trained by a staff person who has been certified by CASAS.

How do I Administer CASAS Tests?

Follow these guidelines to administer all CASAS tests.

Needed for testing day:

- Test Administration Manual
- If paper/pencil testing:
 - Test booklets (Number your booklets for tracking and security purposes.)
 - Answer sheets and #2 pencils
 - Overhead of the answer sheet (optional)

See the “Guidelines for Providing Accommodations for CASAS Assessment for Learners with Disabilities”



[Home](#) > [Training and Support](#) > [Testing Guidelines](#) > [Accommodations Guidelines](#)

(or find it in your *Test Administration Manual*) for alternate test forms available and for a list of approved accommodations.

Preparation for testing

- Students may not use dictionaries or calculators
- Teachers may not read questions or answers to the students

Getting started

- Provide a quiet testing room
- Space students apart
- Provide a proctor for every 25 students
- Explain purpose for testing
- Ease student anxiety
- If paper/pencil testing:
 - Pass out pencils, answer sheets, and scratch paper
 - Assist in completing the demographic portion of the answer sheet
- Demonstrate how to mark answer sheets

Give the test

- For paper/pencil testing:
 - Pass out test booklets
- Read the test directions and review practice items
- Encourage test-takers to review their own answers
- Write start and end times on the board
- Begin the test
- Monitor test-takers

Test timing guidelines

- **Appraisals** – Check the appropriate administration manual for the suggested times allotted for each section of the appraisal.
- **Pre- and post-tests** – allow about 45 minutes to one hour.
 - These tests are not strictly timed. See the *Test Administration Manual* for more information.
 - Allow the same amount of time for pre and post-tests.
 - Students who are not able to complete the test within the hour can be given a few extra minutes to complete the question they are working on.
 - Students are not allowed to “finish” the test at another time. However, please refer to the Test Accommodations section in the *Test Administration Manual* for students with disabilities.

If students are having a great deal of difficulty with test items, and obviously cannot complete them, they may be dismissed. Submit the test as is to your TE staff. They will score the test and let you know if the student received an accurate score or if they need to be retested at a lower level.

Test security is vital. All CASAS test materials including test booklets and answer sheets (which contain marks or responses) must be stored in a locked, preferably fireproof, file cabinet. After administering assessments, teachers must return all materials immediately to the program director or the director’s designees. Duplication of any part of CASAS tests is prohibited.



Ask a Supervisor or Lead Teacher

1. Where are CASAS test booklets stored at your site?
2. What is the check-in/check-out procedure when you take CASAS test booklets to your class?

Section 8: Appraisals, Pretests, and Post-Tests

Appraisals

See the *Form 80 Appraisal Administration Manual* for reading placement and the *Form 130 Appraisal Administration Manual* for math placement (and reading if more applicable to your program.)

The raw score is the number correct on the test. The raw score is not the score you will use. You will use a scale score. All CASAS test results are reported as scale scores, and all CASAS reports refer to scale scores, not raw scores

Convert the raw score to the scale score using the Score Conversion Chart for the test that was administered. For example, if **Maria Gonzalez has a CASAS Appraisal Reading raw score of 7, then her scale score is 204.**

There are unique *Score Conversion Charts* for each test form. The test administration manuals contain the raw to scale score conversion charts for each test form. **Use the Score Conversion Chart for the test you are using!**

Once the appraisal has been completed, students are placed in a particular class or level. Some programs give the appraisal and the pretest before placing students in class. They use the pretest score to place students in class.

Raw Score	Scaled Score
1	176*
2	185*
3	190*
4	194
5	198
6	201
7	204
8	206
9	209
10	211
11	213
12	216
13	218
14	221
15	224
16	227
17	228♦
18	230♦
19	231♦
20	233♦

Two blue arrows point towards the chart from the left and right sides. A vertical line labeled "accurate" is positioned between raw scores 4 and 16.

What's the difference between an Appraisal and a Pre/Post-test?

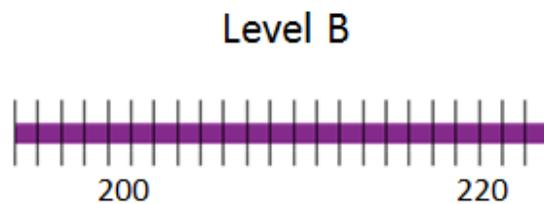
Appraisals

There are 20-25 test items in the CASAS Appraisals (depending on which one is administered.) The items are widely distributed along the CASAS scale. They range from very easy items to difficult items.



Pre- and Post-tests

There can be anywhere from 25 – 35 test items in the pre- and post-tests. These test items are clustered at a specific proficiency level, and include items from low to high difficulty within that specified range. The comparison between pre and post-test scores documents learning gains.



Pretests: How do you know which pretest to give?

TE has a [Next Assigned Test Report](#) to help determine which test forms to give next.

Select a Pretest Level based on an Appraisal Score

From the appraisal test score, find the next assigned test level to administer in a CASAS testing progression. The chart below indicates which test level to give your student.

Appraisal Next Test Chart (*excerpt*)

ECS Math		Life and Work READING	
Score	Next Test Level	Score	Next Test Level
180	A	176	A
183	A	185	A
188	A	190	A
191	A	194	B or A
193	A	198	B
196	B or A	201	B
197	B or A	204	B
200	B	206	B
203	B	209	B
205	B	211	B
206	B	213	B
208	B	216	C or B
210	B	218	C or B
212	B	221	C
214	B	224	C
217	C or B	227	C
219	C or B	228	C
221	C	230	C
222	C	231	C
224	C	233	C
226	C		
228	C		

Our student, Maria Gonzalez, had a score of 204 on her reading appraisal. Her pretest level is Level B.



Then refer to the *CASAS Test Forms Chart* found in the *Test Administration Manual* to identify appropriate test form numbers. Select a pretest based on the series used at your agency. (This chart is for the *Life and Work Reading Series*.)

Test Forms Chart – Life and Work Series

Level	Reading (L&W)
Literacy	27R, 28R

A	81R, 82R
AX	81 RX, 82 RX
B	83R, 84R
C	85R, 86R, 185R, 186R
D	187R, 188R

Rosalina should take an 83R or 84R for her pretest.



Ask a Supervisor or Lead Teacher

1. When is the pretest given at your site?
2. If the pretest is not given at the time of registration, when are you instructed to give the pretest in class?
3. Who is responsible for determining which post-test to give to each student?

Scores Outside the Accuracy Range

In spite of your best efforts to appraise students' skills, occasionally students will not perform on their pretest as anticipated. Sometimes, students may score lower than expected or higher than expected and "top out" of the test.

For low pretest scores, the student may have been ill, or skipped a line on the answer sheet and marked the rest of the answers on the wrong line, or the wrong Test Form Number was bubbled in on the student's answer sheet. A student may have received "help" on the appraisal and be given a pretest that is too hard for them.

For higher than expected test scores, a student may have received "help", or have made some guesses.

The technical errors can be easily remedied, but the others cannot. Sometimes you have to retest the student. Other times a student is given a test form that is below his or her ability, and the student will "top out" of the test. In any of these cases, the student does not have an accurate pretest score – the base line from which their progress is measured by the post-test.

According to this score conversion chart, if a student only scores 1-3 answers correct on this test, the student should be given a test at a lower level. This test was too hard for them.

If another student scores 29 to 32 answers correct, the student should be given a test at the next higher level. This test was too easy for them.

A diamond ♦ score represents a "conservative estimate" of a student's true ability. This score may be used if there is no opportunity to re-test the student at a higher level.

Score Conversion Chart		15	206
Raw Score	Scale Score	16	208
1	-	17	209
2	-	18	210
3	-	19	212
4	186	20	213
5	189	21	215
6	191	22	216
7	194	23	218
8	195	24	220
9	197	25	222
10	199	26	224
11	200	27	226
12	202	28	229
13	203	29	230♦
14	205	30	231♦
		31	232♦
		32	234♦

For example, a student post-tests at the end of the school year and receives a diamond ♦ score. The agency will be able to document the student's learning gain by comparing the student's pretest score to this diamond ♦ score.

Post-tests

The *post-test* results show the progress the student is making in your class and are an excellent way to monitor that progress.

Post-tests can be given multiple times throughout the year. However, be mindful of under- and over-testing. The *California Assessment Policy Guidelines* state that students cannot be post-tested before 40 hours of class time has been completed; however 40 hours is not the optimal time to test your students. Research shows that students show learning gains after completing 70-100 hours of class time. Your agency will have a testing policy and/or schedule of post-testing based on how long students typically remain in the program, intensity of program, and program schedule.

Your agency will have a testing policy and/or schedule of post-testing based on the **California Assessment Policy**, how long students typically remain in the program, intensity of program, and program schedule. For the California Assessment policy, go to:



[Home](#) > [Training and Support](#) > [CASAS Peer Communities](#) > [California Accountability](#)

Students pretest and post-test (and can continue to post-test) within a test level until the student scores high enough to move to the next test level. In other words, a student can continue taking tests within Level A, moving from 81R → 82R → 81R. When a student scores high enough to move to the next test level, according to the Suggested Next Test chart, they should take 81RX.

LEVEL A				LEVEL A EXTENDED			
Form 81 R		Form 82 R		Form 81 RX		Form 82 RX	
Raw Score	Scale Score	Raw Score	Scale Score	Raw Score	Scale Score	Raw Score	Scale Score
1		1		1	-	1	-
2		2		2	-	2	-
3		3		3	-	3	-
4		4		4	-	4	-
5	170	5	170	5	182	5	182
6	173	6	173	6	184	6	184
7	176	7	176	7	186	7	186
8	178	8	178	8	188	8	188
9	180	9	180	9	190	9	190
10	182	10	182	10	192	10	192
11	184	11	184	11	194	11	194
12	186	12	186	12	196	12	196
13	189	13	188	13	197	13	197
14	191	14	191	14	199	14	199
15	193	15	193	15	201	15	200
16	195	16	195	16	202	16	202
17	197	17	197	17	204	17	204
18	200	18	200	18	206	18	206
19	203	19	203	19	208	19	208
20	205♦	20	205♦	20	210	20	210
21	206♦	21	206♦	21	212	21	212
22	208♦	22	208♦	22	214	22	214
23	209♦	23	209♦	23	216	23	216
24	210♦	24	210♦	24	218♦	24	218♦
				25	220♦	25	220♦
				26	222♦	26	222♦
				27	224♦	27	224♦
				28	227♦	28	227♦

Pretest

First Post-Test

Second Post-test
Student now has a high enough score to move to Level AX.

Third Post-Test
Student now has a high enough score to move to Level AX or B tests for next post-test.

TE has a [Next Assigned Test Report](#) to help you determine which test forms to give next. Here is an example.

Student		Last Test						Next Assigned Test	
		Class Administered	Date	Form	Level	Raw Score	Scale Score	Form	Test Series
Ankiel, Rick L	308303438	1	02/25/2013	033M	B	19	214	034M	LW
		1	07/03/2012	085R	C	17	221	086R	CIT, LW-1, LW-2, LW-3
Bestway, John W	039493489	3	07/12/2012	035M	C	28	239	037M	LW
Brown, Kenneth P	983598358	3	10/05/2012	130M		20	241	017M	ECS, WLS
								037M	LW
		3	10/05/2012	130R		21	245	017R	ECS, WLS
								187R	LW-1, LW-2, LW-3
Corkey, Karen V	091919119	3	09/01/2012	085R	C	15	218	086R	CIT, LW-1, LW-2, LW-3
Gorgonzola, Samuel A	938583838	3	10/12/2012	130R		25	254 ♦	017R	ECS, WLS
								187R	LW-1, LW-2, LW-3
Groznik, Joe L	938598358	3	09/19/2012	130M		19	238	017M	ECS, WLS
								037M	LW
		3	09/19/2012	130R		24	251 ♦	017R	ECS, WLS



Ask a Supervisor or Lead Teacher: How are post-tests administered at your site?

1. Who is responsible for determining which post-test to give to each student?
2. If the post-test is administered in your class, when are you instructed to give it?
3. Does your site have a testing calendar? If so, get a copy and place it in this handbook.
4. About how often do you post test your students? (Every quarter, before major holidays, etc.)
5. What can you do to ensure that students who are absent during post-testing eventually get tested?

CASAS Test Preparation

CASAS encourages the use of the Competencies, Content Standards, QuickSearch Online (introduced later in this handbook), and other materials to link assessment, curriculum, and instruction and prepare students for post-testing.

Test Preparation Guidelines

Appropriate strategies:

- Use diagnostic information from test results to “teach to:”
 - Task Areas
 - CASAS Competencies
 - Content Standards
- Use other CASAS support materials to link assessment, curriculum, and instruction (QuickSearch Online)
- Use CASAS answer sheers to practice test-taking skills
- Use the CASAS Sample Test Items for practice



Innapropriate strategies:

- Teaching to a particular test item
- Teaching specific vocabulary in a test item
- Limiting curriculum to what the test covers



Sample Test Items



[Home](#) > [Product Overviews](#) > [Curriculum Management & Instruction](#) > [Sample Test Items](#)

Sample Test Items are a resource available to help:

- Familiarize students and teachers with the CASAS test format
- Practice test taking skills and ease test-taking anxiety
- Practice marking the answer sheet (You may use TE Test Records for practice.)

There are Sample Test Items available for Levels A, B, and C in the *Life and Work Reading Series* and Math sample items for Levels A, B, C and D. There are 5 to 6 test items for each of the three skill levels. Remember, these Sample Test Items are not a predictor of performance.



Gather the Information

1. Download the Reading Sample Test Items from the CASAS Web site. Take the Reading Sample Test Items. Then take the eTests Online sample tests for Math.
2. Identify the task area (type of question – forms, graphs, narratives) for each of the Reading Sample Test Items. See the list of task areas on page 7. There may be more than one task area for an item.

Level A		Level B		Level C	
Answers	Task Area	Answers	Task Area	Answers	Task Area
1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____	4. _____	4. _____	4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____	5. _____	5. _____	5. _____	5. _____

CASAS Reading and Math Tests and the GED Test



[Home](#) > [Product Overviews](#) > [Research and Evaluation](#) > [Transitions](#) > [CASAS / GED 2002](#)

How do the CASAS reading and math tests relate to the GED Tests? At what CASAS test level do students have the highest probability of passing the GED Tests? What does the research tell us?

Answer: Based on a national study, CASAS tests are a strong predictor of scores on the official GED 2002 Tests.

In the study of 6,700 students from five states

- 78 percent of those who scored at CASAS Level D in reading passed all GED subsections
- 94 percent of those who scored at CASAS Level E passed all subsections

(To pass the GED, students must achieve an average score of 450 or greater across all subsections with no individual score lower than 410.)

This study also shows that students who scored at a CASAS Level D in math have a

- 90 percent chance of passing the math subsection with a score of 450 or greater
- 97 percent chance of passing the math subsection who score at a Level E in math

Based on this research, CASAS recommends that students score at the CASAS Level E before attempting the individual GED subsections. In some cases students scoring at CASAS Level D may be sufficiently prepared to take the GED 2002 Tests.

Assessing Your ASE Students

With your adult secondary level learners there are many CASAS tools to help determine readiness for the GED test and to target instruction.

The **Secondary Level Assessment** series features a battery of eight high school subject tests:

- Mathematics
- Reading for Language Arts

Level D (High School Level) Assessments

- Employability Competency System (ECS) reading and math
- Life and Work reading
- Life Skills math

The Secondary Level Assessment Reading for Language Arts (Forms 513 and 514), *Mathematics* (Forms 505 and 506) and the *Level D assessments* can be used as pre- and post-tests for your program.

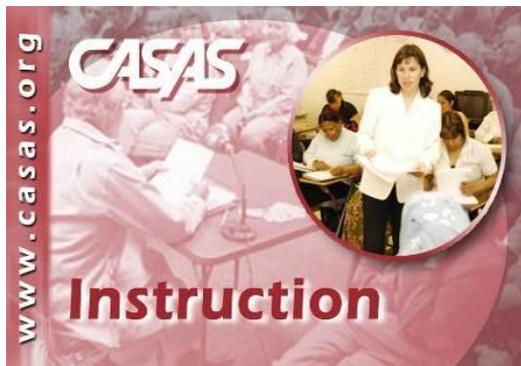
CASAS also offers the following assessment series to help further determine student needs; however, these assessments may not be used as pre- and post-testing tools:

- The **Secondary Level Assessment** series:
 - Reading for Biological Science
 - Reading for American Government
 - Reading for U.S. History
 - Reading for World History
 - Reading for Physical Science
 - Reading for Economics



[Home](#) > [Product Overviews](#) > [Assessments](#) > [Functional Writing](#)

- The **Functional Writing Assessment** includes writing tasks suitable for adult high school programs. In addition, the results of the CASAS GED Writing Skills Study show that the CASAS Functional Writing Assessment is a strong predictor of scores on the essay section of the GED Writing Test.
- The **Workplace Appraisal** (part of Workforce Learning Systems), Form 230 includes a reading and a math skills placement test and is accurate up to level E.
- The **Workforce Skills Certification System** assesses the readiness of high school level learners to enter the workforce. CASAS Workforce Skills Certification assessments certify basic skill proficiency in reading, math, critical thinking and problem solving – in multiple industrial contexts including banking, construction, healthcare, telecommunications and high-tech manufacturing – at a level identified by employers as critical for ongoing career growth.
- **Critical Thinking Assessments** for Social Studies, Science, and Employability are a collection of test items that assess a learner's critical thinking and written expression skills. Each booklet contains 15 questions or hypothetical situations encountered in everyday life and in the workplace. Programs are authorized to duplicate these exercises for students.
 - **Social Studies** – American government and economics items, such as reading graphs found in newspaper articles.
 - **Science** – applications of biology and chemistry subject matter in practical situations (e.g., an article discussing the effects of spraying genetically altered bacteria on strawberries).
 - **Employability** – hypothetical situations encountered at the workplace.
- **CAHSEE Math Readiness Test** helps prepare adult learners planning to take the math portion of the CAHSEE. During the pilot study, examinees who scored 236 or greater on the CASAS-CAHSEE Math Readiness test, 92.9 percent passed the math portion of the actual CAHSEE.
- **CAHSEE English Language Arts Test** consists of 50 questions covering the five content strands – writing conventions, writing strategies, literary response, word analysis, and reading comprehension.



Section 9: Using Test Results

Once all the students in class have taken the pretest, you will receive (or need to request) a **TE** report that helps identify the areas your students are having difficulty with, allowing you to target your instruction accordingly.

How do I use test results to guide instruction?

Following testing, TE can provide various reports to help you gauge student level, guide classroom instruction, and inform students of their progress. While there are approximately 150 reports to choose from, the most helpful TE reports for teachers are:

- Class Performance by Competency
 - Shows percentage of correct answers for a class on a particular test
- Learning Gains First to Last
 - Shows individual student progress between pretest and most recent test



Ask a Supervisor or Lead Teacher

- Who provides you with TOPSpro reports?

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- When do you receive them?

The **Class Performance by Competency** report tells which Competencies your class needs to work on.

CASAS		Agency Performance			Page 7 of 32
07/24/2013 17:12:47		by Test Item & Competency			SCPSTIC2
Agency:	4908 - Rolling Hills Adult School	Total Tests:	7	Total Students:	7
Form:	033M - Life Skills Math Level B				
Position	Correct?	Comp No.	Task	Competency Description	
1	87 %	3.1.2	2	Identify info. to make, keep medical/dental appointments	
		2.3.2		Identify the months of the year and the days of the week	
		6.0.1		Identify and classify numeric symbols	
2	100 %	1.1.4	5	Select, compute, or interpret appropriate measurement	
		6.6.2		Recognize, use, measure linear dimensions, geom. shapes	
		6.6.7		Solve measurement problems in stipulated situations	
3	87 %	4.2.1	2	Interpret wages, deductions, benefits, timekeeping forms	
		1.1.6		Count, convert, use coins, currency and symbols (\$ and .)	
		6.2.3		Multiply decimal fractions	
		6.6.6		Calculate with units of time	
4	87 %	4.2.1	2	Interpret wages, deductions, benefits, timekeeping forms	
		2.3.1		Interpret clock time	
		6.6.6		Calculate with units of time	
5	87 %	2.2.4	2	Interpret transportation schedules and fares	
		6.6.6		Calculate with units of time	
6	75 %	2.2.4	2	Interpret transportation schedules and fares	
		6.6.6		Calculate with units of time	



Refer to the Class by Competency Report above

1. Identify two competencies that this particular teacher should focus on:

2. The task area shows how an item is presented. What is the task area for item #3? *Refer to page 7 for the Reading Task Areas Chart.*

Teachers can use the **Learning Gains First to Last** report to check the gains for each student from their pretest to their most recent post-test, and to obtain each student’s individual scale scores.

Student		Status	First Test			Last Test			Gain	Test Hours of Instruction
			Date	Form	Score	Date	Form	Score		
023945893	Ford, Trayla B	Active	09/01/2012	086R	217					0
298349872	River, Autumn	Active	10/23/2012	085R	226	11/20/2012	086R	237	11	0
308303438	Ankiel, Rick L	Active	07/03/2012	085R	221					0
536363636	Long, Bob A	Active	09/01/2012	037R	238					0
893593875	Hillen, Jasper	Active	09/21/2012	083R	206	12/21/2012	084R	205	-1	0
897345398	Garcia, Chuckie T	Active	10/16/2012	083R	210	01/15/2013	085R	223	13	0
903450983	Alt, Mort J	Active	08/04/2012	086R	223	10/01/2012	085R	234	11	0
908354098	Mortimer, Sally	Active	07/01/2012	037R	240					0
908374598	Gilmore, Bill	Active	07/25/2012	086R	212	11/21/2012	037R	222	10	0
913425098	Acuna, Rosalina	Active	09/01/2012	083R	218	12/10/2012	086R	227	9	0
938579834	Jacob, Leean	Active	07/11/2012	082R	195	12/17/2012	085R	217	22	0
983579384	Bork, Rupert	Active	09/01/2012	011R	169	02/13/2013	012R	186	17	0
983598547	Somnambulant, Amnota	Active	11/13/2012	085R	213					0
983598757	Jones, Jimmie Z	Active	09/28/2012	082R	182	10/11/2012	085R	221	39	0
987548383	Thrime, Chanisha M	Active	07/19/2012	085R	224					0



Look at the report above

1. What was the point gain between Maria Costas’ pretest and post-test?
2. How will you use information about student gains?
3. How can you use information about individual student scale scores for instruction?

How do I share test results with my students?

Encourage your students to track their progress by helping them create charts or graphs, or simply keeping a list of test dates and scores.

The *Student Test History* report provides the students' scale scores from their first test of the fiscal year (July 1) to the most recent test, regardless of type of test (reading or math). It also will show tests students have taken in other classes in your program.

Share these scores with individual students using the *Skill Level Descriptors Chart* to explain what each score means. You can also give your students individual reports, such as *the Individual Skills Profile report* that shows how well they did by Competency Area, Content Standard and Task Area. This report also shows GED readiness.



07/24/2013
17:26:26

Individual Skills Profile

Page 20 of 26
ISP

Matt O'Happenstance

ID# 095898383

Agency: 4908 - Rolling Hills Adult School
Program: GED

Most Recent	Form	Date	Scale Score	NRS *	Form Level	Number of Items		
						Total	Correct	Attempted
Reading	187R	09/21/2012	247	6	D	32	24	32

Reading Competencies		N	Correct
Consumer Economics		7	85 %
Community resources		17	58 %
Health		8	100 %
Employment		36	75 %
Government and law		9	33 %
Learning to learn		9	44 %

Reading Content Standards		N	Correct
Vocabulary		16	81 %
General reading comprehension		52	59 %
Text in format		4	75 %
Reference materials		5	80 %
Reading strategies		12	91 %
Reading and thinking skills		9	44 %

Reading Tasks		N	Correct
Forms		1	100 %
Charts, maps, consumer billings, matrices, graphs, ta...		6	66 %
Articles, paragraphs, sentences, directions, manuals		25	76 %

Matt O'Happenstance has a likelihood of ...	to pass this GED subsection
85 %	Language Arts, Writing
97 %	Science
96 %	Social Studies
89 %	Language Arts, Reading
More study needed	Math

When looking at your class test results, be aware that there are underlying skills that relate to more than that specific competency. Determine the task type (form, narrative, map, etc.) and think of other ways that the skills can be practiced in the competency area you are currently working on.



Tie It Together

1. How does this information relate to what you're already doing?
2. What are some of the challenges you face with using test results?
3. What are some ways you can improve the process for getting and interpreting test results in your classroom or agency?

Practice Activity: Develop a way to practice a competency in another topic area

You've received your test results and have found that 58 percent of your students missed questions about "Filling out a Family Medical History Form" – Competency # 3.2.1

Your class studied health two months ago. Under what other Competency Areas and Topic Areas could you practice similar skills?

Competency Number Tested	Competency Area of Test Item	Alternate Content Areas	Alternate Sample Tasks
3.2.1	Understand forms related to health care	Employment Consumer Economics Health	Complete a job application form Fill out forms related to banking Complete a health plan application for their job

For Competency # 3.2.1, instead of students learning how to fill out a family medical history form, they could practice the same skill under "Employment." Students could

- ✓ Complete a job application form

Or under "Consumer Economics", students could

- ✓ Learn to fill out forms related to banking

Or under "Health," students could

- ✓ Complete a health plan application form for their job

How do I find appropriate instructional materials to teach the competencies?

The “**Scope and Sequence**” section in your textbook, generally found at the beginning of the text, can help you identify which CASAS Competencies are being addressed in each lesson. Competencies are taught in conjunction with grammar, vocabulary, math and critical thinking activities.

QuickSearch Online assists teachers in selecting appropriate instructional materials to meet the needs of their students. A user-friendly database, QuickSearch Online includes more than 2,300 print, audio, visual, and computer-based instructional materials that are commercially available and is updated every year.



Gather the Information

1. Which core text series do you use?

2. What level?

3. Is there a “Scope and Sequence” section?
 - a. On what page can it be found?
 - b. List two ways you can use it:

CASAS QuickSearch Online



[Home](#) > [Product Overviews](#) > [Curriculum Management & Instruction](#) > [Instructional Materials: QuickSearch Online](#)

The CASAS **QuickSearch Online** is a user-friendly database that includes more than 2,300 commercially available print, audio, visual and computer-based instructional materials. **QuickSearch Online** is updated annually to include new materials from publishers and software companies.

With your class or student test results, you can search for materials to address specific competencies and match curriculum by:

- Title of instructional material
- Competency number
- Program, Level, and Skill (reading, writing, listening or speaking)
- Publisher
- CASAS Test (both level and series)

Below is a sample report from **QuickSearch Online**

Competency selected for this report: **2.1.7**



A Database of Instructional Materials for Youth and Adult Educational and Training Programs

QuickSearch by	Selected Competencies			
Titles	2.1.7	Take, interpret, and leave telephone messages		
Competencies	Matches	Title	Publisher	Level
Program, Level, & Skill	1	Aztec Courseware	AZTEC SOFTWARE, INC.	B/C/D/E
Publishers	1	Communication Skills That Work Book 1	MCGRAW-HILL/CONTEMPORARY	B
Tests	1	Crossroads. Student Book 1.	OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS/ESL (USA)	A/B
Get more information	1	Crossroads. Student Book 3.	OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS/ESL (USA)	B
Quick Search Tutorial	1	Effective Business Speaking.	LEARNING EXPRESS, LLC	B/C
Reports & Other Tools	1	English for Technology	DOMINIE PRESS/PEARSON LEARNING GROUP	C/D
Exit	1	English for the World of Work	AMERICAN GUIDANCE SERVICE/PEARSON ASSESSMENTS	C/D
CASAS	1	Everyday Life	GOODWILL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.	Pre-A/A
© 2009 CASAS — Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems. All Rights Reserved.	1	From Home to School. Book 1.	NEW READERS PRESS	A
Contact us Feedback	1	From Home to School. Book 2.	NEW READERS PRESS	B
	1	Getting Organized at Work	LEARNING EXPRESS, LLC	C/D
	1	Getting the Job You Really Want	JIST PUBLISHING/EMC PUBLISHING	C

Multiple measures of documenting student progress

While CASAS testing provides useful information about students' skills and progress, you should monitor student progress through a variety of means.

Keeping a student portfolio (e.g., CASAS scores, tests, quizzes, writing samples, handouts, etc.) is important to provide a comprehensive picture documenting student progress. Items to keep in the portfolio might include:

- a list or graph of CASAS test results
- Instructor-generated tests and quizzes
- Samples of student work
- Needs assessments
- Alternative(performance-based) assessments

Portfolios can be created and updated by your students during class. Have students update their portfolios at the end of each week or unit identifying goals they have met or skills they have attained. "Student Record Sheets" can be used to document other achievements. You can also use a copy of your textbook's table of contents to have students track what they have learned.



Ask a Supervisor or Lead Teacher

1. List two ways you monitor student progress:

2. What Student Portfolio items are required by your agency?

3. How do you have students participate in documenting their own progress?

Review

Review the table of contents for this handbook. Are there any areas that you need more information about? If so, who could you ask at your agency?

CASAS training opportunities



For additional training, consider completing one of the following, either in person or online:

- CASAS Implementation for New Users: Basic Assessment Training
- California Accountability for New Users

Go to www.casas.org for a current list of regional and web-based training opportunities. You will also find a vast array of information, announcements, and documents about CASAS.

Reflection

Write two things you've learned from this handbook:

Write two things you want to learn more about:

