

**A Project of the U.S. Department of Education**

# Test Benchmarks for NRS Educational Functioning Levels

Updated August 2019

## Adult Basic Education (ABE)

| Educational Functioning Level (EFL) | Test Benchmarks |
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| Beginning ABE Literacy  (ABE Level 1-all subjects) | **TABE[[1]](#footnote-1) (11–12) scale scores**  **(grade level 0–1):**  Reading: 300–441  Mathematics: 300–448  Language: 300–457  **CASAS[[2]](#footnote-2) Reading GOALS scale scores:**  Reading: 203 and below  **CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:**  Mathematics: 193 and below |
| Beginning Basic Education  (ABE Level 2—all subjects) | TABE (11–12) scale scores  (grade level 2–3):  Reading: 442–500  Mathematics: 449–495  Language: 458–510  **CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:**  Reading: 204-216  **CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:**  Mathematics: 194-203  MAPT[[3]](#footnote-3) scale scores:  All tests: 200–299 |
| Low Intermediate Basic Education  (ABE Level 3—all subjects) | TABE (11–12) scale scores  (grade level 4–5):  Reading: 501–535  Mathematics: 496–536  Language: 511–546  **CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:**  Reading: 217-227  **CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:**  Mathematics: 204-214  MAPT scale scores:  All tests: 300–399 |
| High Intermediate Basic Education  (ABE Level 4-ELA)  Middle Intermediate Basic Education  (ABE Level 4--Mathematics)[[4]](#footnote-4) | TABE (11–12) scale scores  (grade level 6–8):  Reading: 536–575  Mathematics: 537–595  Language: 547–583  **CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:**  Reading: 228-238  **CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:**  Mathematics: 215-225  **MAPT scale scores:**  All tests: 400–499 |
| Low Adult Secondary Education  (ABE Level 5-ELA)  High Intermediate Basic Education  (ABE Level 5-Mathematics) | TABE (11–12) scale scores  (grade level 9–10):  Reading: 576–616  Language: 584–630  Mathematics: 596–656  **CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:**  Reading: 239 – 248  **CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:**  Mathematics: 226-235  MAPT scale scores:  All tests: 500–599 |
| High Adult Secondary Education  (ABE Level 6-ELA)  Adult Secondary Education  (ABE Mathematics Level 6) | TABE (11–12) scale scores  (grade level 11–12):  Reading: 617–800  Language: 631–800  Mathematics: 657–800  **CASAS Reading GOALS scale scores:**  Reading: 249 and above  **CASAS Math GOALS scale scores:**  Mathematics: 236 and above  MAPT scale scores:  All tests: 600–700 |

## English as a Second Language (ESL)

| Educational Functioning Level (EFL) | Test Benchmarks |
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| Beginning ESL Literacy  (ESL Level 1—all subjects) | CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:  Reading: 180 and below  L&W Listening: 162–180  BEST[[5]](#footnote-5) Plus 2.0: 88–361  **BEST Literacy:** 0–20 (SPL 0–1)  TABE CLAS-E[[6]](#footnote-6) scale scores[[7]](#footnote-7):  Total Reading and Writing: 225–394  Total Listening and Speaking: 230–407 |
| Low Beginning ESL  (ESL Level 2—all subjects) | CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:  Reading: 181–190  L&W Listening: 181–189  BEST Plus 2.0: 362–427  BEST Literacy:21–52 (SPL 2)  TABE CLAS-E scale scores:  Total Reading and Writing: 395–441  Total Listening and Speaking: 408–449 |
| High Beginning ESL  (ESL Level 3—all subjects) | CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:  Reading: 191–200  L&W Listening: 190–199  BEST Plus 2.0: 428–452  BEST Literacy: 53–63 (SPL 3)  TABE CLAS-E scale scores:  Total Reading and Writing: 442–482  Total Listening and Speaking: 450–485 |
| Low Intermediate ESL  (ESL Level 4—all subjects) | CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:  Reading: 201–210  L&W Listening: 200–209  BEST Plus 2.0: 453–484  BEST Literacy: 64–67 (SPL 4)  TABE CLAS-E scale scores:  Total Reading and Writing: 483–514  Total Listening and Speaking: 486–525 |
| High Intermediate ESL  (ESL Level 5—all subjects) | CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:  Reading: 211–220  L&W Listening: 210–218  BEST Plus 2.0: 485–524  BEST Literacy: 68–75 (SPL 5)  TABE CLAS-E scale scores:  Total Reading and Writing: 515–556  Total Listening and Speaking: 526–558 |
| Advanced ESL  (ESL Level 6—all subjects) | CASAS Life and Work Reading scale scores:  Reading: 221–235  L&W Listening: 219–227  BEST Plus:525–564 (exit 565 and higher)  BEST Literacy[[8]](#footnote-8): 76–78 (SPL 6)  TABE CLAS-E scale scores:  Total Reading and Writing: 557–600  Total Listening and Speaking: 559–600 |

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1. TABE = Tests of Adult Basic Education [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. CASAS = Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. MAPT = Massachusetts Adult Proficiency Test [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. For mathematics, there is an additional intermediate level, Middle Intermediate (level 4), in addition to High Intermediate (level 5), and only one secondary level (level 6), due to the complexity of the mathematics descriptors. When reporting on NRS tables, use the level number. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. BEST = Basic English Skills Test [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. TABE CLAS–E = Test of Adult Basic Education Complete Language Assessment System – English [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Refer to the TABE CLAS–E Technical Manual for score ranges for individual reading, writing, listening and speaking tests. Table shows only total scores. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Students can be placed into advanced ESL using Best Literacy but the test does not assess skills beyond this level so students cannot exit Advanced ESL with this test. Retesting of students who enter this level with another assessment is recommended. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)