

Updated 11.12.2025

Purpose

This guide was created to assist Adult Education & Literacy (AEL) providers with the transition from the current English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessment to the new ELP assessments, and the TABE 11/12 to the TABE 13/14. Programs should determine when the most appropriate time is to transition all students to the new assessments before the legacy assessments sunset on June 30, 2025. This memo will include background information with rationale for the change and a transition timeline.

Background

The Office of Career Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE) approves federally required assessments for a specified time. When assessments expire, it means that the assessment needs to go to OCTAE for review. If acceptable, OCTAE will then issue a period of time for which the field can continue to use the assessment(s) until the assessment “sunset.” When an assessment “sunset,” the assessment is NO LONGER VALID and cannot be used. Once an assessment sunset, a new assessment will replace the former test. These tests will either change names (most often) or change forms.

In FY26 (July 1, 2025), the current tests for English Language Proficiency, for English Language Learners (ELLs), and the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) 11/12 assessments will sunset and new assessments will go into effect.

Although the [TABE 13/14](#) is a refresh with small modifications to the assessment blueprint, the ELL assessments were updated to better align with the National Reporting System (NRS) English Language Proficiency (ELP) Achievement Level Descriptors. Because there are students whose EFL was set with one of the current assessments mentioned above, any assessment must be completed using the same version of that assessment by June 30, 2025.

Test Administrator Training & Certification

All test administrators will need to do the instrument specific trainings to recertify and administer the TABE 13/14 TABE Clas E C&D, BEST Plus 3.0, and the CASAS Reading STEPS. **Please note that although certificates for current assessments may remain valid throughout the FY25, all test administrators who will be responsible for administering the newly approved NRS assessments will need to update their certifications/training to include the new assessments.**

BEST Plus 2.0 certified Test Administrators will have their certifications extended until June 30, 2025, for BEST Plus 2.0 only. However, everyone who administers the BEST 3.0 will need to recertify to purchase the new BEST Plus 3.0 assessments.

Certification

Because all new AE/ASE students will need to be pretested using the new NRS assessments, all assessment trainers and those who administer assessments, will need to recertify by December 31, 2024. If your program intends to use the new assessments with incoming students prior to this date, it is the program’s responsibility to ensure that staff who will administer this assessment receive training prior to administering the assessment. Please follow publisher guidance on which trainings to complete.

[CASAS Reading STEPS](#)

TABE 13/14 - contact DRC directly

TABE Clas E C&D – contact DRCdirectly

BEST Plus 3.0 (including those with a current 2.0 certification) (Available 10/14/24)

Because assessments that sunset are no longer valid for reporting purposes, a transition timeline needs to be in place to ensure a smooth transition from one assessment to another. Although both ESL assessments measure English language proficiency, the new assessments have a different scale, items, and blueprint. Pre and post assessments must be done using the same assessment until its sunset. For example, students who are pretested using the TABE 11/12, will need to posttest using the TABE 11/12 if they have enough hours by June 30, 2026, or before if appropriate as determined by the program. New students arriving after January 1, 2026, will need to pretest using the Tab 13/14 and posttest using the same form.

Updates:

Test With NRS Approval That Expired on February 5, 2025, Previously Allowed for Use in the NRS During a Sunset Period Ending on June 30, 2025, and Now Allowed for Use During an Extended Sunset Period Ending on June 30, 2026

The Secretary has determined that the following test is suitable for use in Literacy/English Language Arts at all ABE levels of the NRS during a sunset period ending on June 30, 2026:

Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) Reading GOALS Series. Forms 901/902, 903/904, 905/906, and 907/908 are approved for use on paper and through a computer-based delivery format. Publisher: CASAS, 5151 Murphy Canyon Road, Suite 220, San Diego, CA 92123-4339. Telephone: (800) 255-1036. Internet: www.casas.org/.

Test With NRS Approval That Expired on September 7, 2024, Previously Allowed for Use in the NRS During a Sunset Period Ending on June 30, 2025, and Now Allowed for Use During an Extended Sunset Period Ending on June 30, 2026

The Secretary has determined that the following test is suitable for use in Literacy/English Language Arts and Mathematics at all ABE levels of the NRS during a sunset period ending on June 30, 2026:

Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE 11/12). Forms 11 and 12 are approved for use on paper and through a computer-based delivery format. Publisher: Data Recognition Corporation—CTB, 13490 Bass Lake Road, Maple Grove, MN 55311. Telephone: 800-538-9547. Internet: www.tabetest.com.

Basic Guidelines

- If programs have decided to transition to the new assessment forms, new students will be pretested using TABE 13/14 or TABE Clas E C & D.
- All current ABE/ASE students may continue to posttest using the TABE 11/12 if programs have not yet transitioned to TABE 13/14.
- Test Trainers/Administrators need to monitor remaining administrations of sunsetting assessments and order only what is needed to complete post testing until June 30, 2026.

Present-June 30,2026:

- Assessments given using instruments that sunset June 30, 2026, will expire on July 1, 2026. Programs should no longer use these assessments after June 30, 2025.
- Students with 40 or more hours of instruction since their last assessment using an instrument that will be sunsetting on June 30, 2026, must be post tested using the same instrument to capture possible Measurable Skill Gains (MSGs).
- Options for re-pretesting students with fewer than 40 hours of instruction since their last assessment using an instrument that will be sunsetting on June 30, 2026:

1. Re pretest using a new assessment before July 1, 2026, to prevent expiration of EFL or,
2. Re-pretest using the new assessment as soon as possible when the new fiscal year begins (FY27).

July 1, 2026

- Re-pretest all continuing students who do not have an active EFL due to the sunseting of the older assessments.
- Continue to use only the new assessments to pretest/posttest any new students.
- All expired assessments may not be used for practice and must be destroyed (e.g., shredded.)

