

Minnesota ABE Assessment Overview

2016-2017 Program Year

Introduction

The Minnesota Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education have authorized three testing systems for Minnesota's ABE programs: CASAS, TABE and BEST Plus 2.0.

CASAS (Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems)

Web Site: www.casas.org

Name/Series	Content	Format	Forms/Levels
Beginning Literacy	Reading*	Computer-based Paper-based	27 and 28
Life and Work	Reading*	Computer-based Paper-based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level A: 81, 82, 81X, 82X • Level B: 83, 84 • Level C: 85, 86, 185, 186 • Level D: 187, 188
	Listening*	Computer-based Paper-based	981L-986L
Life Skills	Math*	Computer-based Paper-based	31-38, 505, 506

*Approved by OCTAE and the Minnesota Department of Education for NRS purposes through February 2, 2019.

When CASAS is used:

- Used for most ESL Students (Beginning Literacy to Advanced)
- Approved for use with all adult learners at all levels
- Used with classes teaching life skills

Based on a set of CASAS Competencies: Go to www.casas.org for more information

TABE (Tests of Adult Basic Education)

Web Site: www.ctb.com/TABE

Name/Series	Content	Format	Forms/Levels
9 and 10 Survey* and Complete Battery* versions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Complete Math (2 tests: Math Computation and Applied Mathematics) • Language 	Computer-based Paper-based	L: Literacy E: Easy M: Medium D: Difficult A: Advanced

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When TABE is used:

- Used for many GED and Adult Diploma students and with some Advanced ESL Students
- Used with classes teaching academic skills

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BEST Plus 2.0* (Basic English Skills Test)

Web Site: <http://www.cal.org/aea/bestplus/index.html>

Name/Series	Content	Format	Forms/Levels
Basic English Skills Test (BEST) Plus 2.0*	ESL	Paper-based Computer-adaptive	D, E, F

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What is it?

- ESL test assessing oral and listening skills
- Computerized test given in a one-to-one setting

Informal Assessments

Cannot be used as an official pretest or posttest!

Common Informal Assessments:

- Individual teacher-made/designed
- Diagnostic Reading Assessments (STAR Project, online course available)
- GED® Ready/Practice GED®
- Literacy BEST
- ABLE

Testing Policies

- **Programs administer state and NRS-approved assessments to all ABE students**
- **All ABE students complete a pre-test within their first 12 hours**
- **Students may not be post-tested until they have completed at least 40 contact hours**
- **Programs adhere to testing directions**
- **More than 60% of participants are post-tested**

Common post-testing options:

- The entire class will post-test after a prescribed term where learners have completed at least 40 contact hours.
- Students will be individually pulled to post-test after they have completed 40 contact hours.

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Assessment Certification

For tests that local programs are using, each consortium is required to have at least one person who has attended certification training in the last five years in the tests used for NRS level completion purposes. The Minnesota Department of Education strongly encourages all ABE staff to participate in test training.

Test	Name of Local Person Certified	Date of Last Certification
CASAS		
TABE		
BEST Plus		

For More Information

Minnesota ABE Assessment Web Site (www.mnabeassessment.com)

Minnesota ABE LINCS Web Site (www.mnabe.org)