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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Adult Education Directors
FCS Adult Education Directors
CBO Adult Education Directors

FROM: Kevin O'Farrell, Ph.D.

DATE: July 22, 2024

SUBJECT: Adult Education Program Implementation Assessment Memo

This memo summarizes key updates and recommendations related to the implementation of new National Reporting System (NRS) assessment series. The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) remains committed to the continuous improvement of our educational initiatives and this memo serves as a critical update on our adult education endeavors.

Please find below a detailed update on recent assessment changes, related policy and reporting impacts and proposed strategies for enhancement. Attached to this memo is a companion Frequently Asked Questions document with detailed responses to related questions from the field.

Changes in Assessments for the 2024-2025 Reporting Year

The federal register notice, "[*Test Determined to be Suitable for use in the National Reporting System for Adult Education*](#)," serves as the official announcement by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE) regarding assessments states may use to measure educational gain for the NRS in adult education.

While a test published in the Federal Register may be deemed suitable for use in the NRS, it does not automatically imply approval for use within the state of Florida. The Federal Register notice signals to state education agencies that they may consider implementing new assessments, but the process of adoption and implementation within a state takes time. Once an assessment is published in the Federal Register, the FDOE must work with the testing publisher to update data reporting elements and the Florida Assessment Policy.

Florida Adult Education providers must always verify with state education authorities which NRS assessments are approved for use in Florida. Adopted assessments are referenced in Rule 6A-6.014, F.A.C., and the Florida Assessment Policy. Florida's Assessment Policy is available on the [Career and Adult Education Technical Assistance](#) webpage.

Kevin O'Farrell, Ph. D.
Chancellor of Career and Adult Education

Adult Basic Education Expiring and New Assessment Series

The chart below shows assessments approved by the state of Florida for use in Adult Basic Education (ABE), GED® Preparation (GED) and Adult Skill Building (ASB) courses. New assessments are reportable to the state via state reporting systems beginning the 2024-25 reporting year.

Expiring Assessment	Sunset Date	New Assessment	Transition Before
CASAS Math GOALS	6/30/2024	CASAS Math 2 GOALS	7/1/2024
CASAS Reading GOALS	6/30/2025*	N/A	N/A
TABE 11 & 12	6/30/2025*	N/A	N/A

** Although not yet determined, this would be the anticipated sunset date based on sunset periods announced in previous NRS notices published in the Federal Register.*

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Expiring and New Assessment Series

On March 18, 2024, OCTAE published a notice in the Federal Register announcing an extension of the sunset period for ESL tests originally scheduled for sunset on June 30, 2024. The sunset period for ESL tests is extended through June 30, 2025.

The chart below shows assessments approved by the state of Florida for use in the ESOL program. New assessments are reportable to the state via state reporting systems beginning the 2024-25 reporting year.

Expiring Assessment	Sunset Date	New Assessment	Transition Before
CASAS Life and Works Reading	6/30/2025	CASAS Reading STEPS	7/1/2025
CASAS Life and Works Listening	6/30/2025	CASAS Listening STEPS	7/1/2025
BEST Literacy	6/30/2025	BEST Literacy 2.0	7/1/2025
BEST Plus	6/30/2025	BEST Plus 3.0	7/1/2025
TABE CLAS-E	6/30/2025	N/A	N/A

Changes in NRS Level When Replacing an Expiring to New Assessment Series.

Consistent with Florida assessment policy, agencies are to report students based on assessment score and associated Educational Functioning Level (EFL). When replacing an expiring assessment series to a new one, students may see a drop in their EFL. Even in such instances, agencies are to report students based on the new assessment and associated EFL.

ESOL Placement and Reporting

Consistent with assessment policy, agencies are to report students based on assessment score and associated EFL. The ESOL program framework comprehensively covers all NRS levels 1-6. A change in EFL does not result in a program change. How programs choose to schedule students into classes for this program is a local decision.

GED Placement and Reporting

With the sunset of CASAS Math GOALS, all GED program students, continuing and new, must be placed using the new CASAS MATH 2 GOALS assessment. State data reporting systems will not support continued reporting of the expiring CASAS Math GOALS in the 2024-25 reporting year due to their removal from data reporting systems. In instances where testing on the new assessment results in a student's movement from a GED program to an ABE program due to a change in EFL, agencies are to report students based on the new assessment and associated EFL, in accordance with Florida assessment policy.

Note that the Measurable Skill Gain (MSG) for secondary credential earning is irrespective of program of enrollment. If an ABE student successfully earns the GED credential, for example, the MSG is awarded.

Awarding of Previously Awarded Post Test MSGs

The implementation of new assessment series subsequently resets student EFLs. Students may be awarded “the same” MSG more than once as a result of the series transition because the educational functioning level descriptors, per NRS, are unique.

Reporting of Historic Pre-tests

Beginning with the 2024-25 reporting year, new edits are in place to block the reporting of assessments with test dates greater than three years old. Analysis showed tests as old as 10 years being used for placement. To align with assessment best practice, this temporary edit will be in place until further research is done with the potential goal of implementing series-specific test date edits.

Updated NRS Tables

Every three years, OCTAE reviews and updates its information collection requests for the NRS for adult education. This year, OCTAE proposed and adopted changes to NRS tables for reporting beginning in October 2024. For an overview and explanation of the table changes and how they expand reporting on MSGs, please reference the OCTAE document, [NRS Tips: Quick Review of the 2024 NRS Table Changes](#).

Alternative Placement NRS Table Rows

One of the most significant changes to NRS policy and table reporting is the creation of Alternative Placement table rows. These rows allow for NRS table placement of students in programs designed to result in MSG types other than EFL gains based on pre- and post-testing using an NRS approved assessment (MSG Type 1a). These options are to be used at the state’s sole discretion. DCAE looks forward to working with the field in the coming months on best practices for implementation in the state of Florida.

Updated Calculation for MSG 1c - Program 1c Exit + Entry into Postsecondary Education

The exit provision was dropped for the MSG type 1c, transition to postsecondary education or training. OCTAE guidance clarifies that states may now report an EFL gain for participants who are enrolled in a program below the postsecondary level and who enroll in state-recognized

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postsecondary education or training during the program year. That is, an EFL gain may be counted for participants who enroll in a postsecondary education or training program and who do not exit adult education. Please note that enrollment in a state-recognized postsecondary education or training program must occur after enrollment in adult education.

New MSG 1d – Passing of a Subtest on a State-recognized High School Equivalency Examination

States may now report an EFL gain for participants who pass a subtest on a state-recognized high school equivalency examination. This is a new MSG type, per OCTAE, and Florida will recognize the achievement of passing GED subject area tests as MSGs effective immediately. No reporting changes are required. Reporting guidance is forthcoming.

If you have any questions related to policy, please contact the Director of Adult Education Program Implementation, Carol Bruner, at Carol.Bruner@fldoe.org. For questions related to data reporting, please contact the Director of Research and Evaluation, Dr. Brittany Ross, at Brittany.Ross@fldoe.org.

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Attachment