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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Adult Education Directors
Florida College System Adult Education Directors
Community Based Organization Adult Education Directors

FROM: Kevin O'Farrell, Ph.D.

DATE: June 10, 2025

SUBJECT: Adult Education Program Implementation Assessment Update

This memo summarizes key updates and recommendations for the implementation of new National Reporting System (NRS) assessment series and the extension of sunset dates for existing NRS assessment series. Please find below a detailed update on recent assessment changes, related policy and reporting impacts and proposed strategies for enhancement.

Changes in Assessments for the 2025-2026 Reporting Year

The federal register notice, [*“Tests Determined to be Suitable for use in the National Reporting System for Adult Education”*](#) published on May 8, 2025, 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(s) 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. 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, Florida Administrative Code 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 (ABE) Expiring and New Assessment Series

On May 8, 2025, OCTAE published a notice in the Federal Register announcing an extension of the sunset period for ABE tests CASAS Reading GOALS and TABE 11/12 originally scheduled for sunset on June 30, 2025. The sunset period for the ABE tests is extended through June 30, 2026. The notice also announced the approval of CASAS Reading GOALS 2 as suitable for use in the NRS for a seven-year period with an anticipated sunset date of June 30, 2032.

The chart below shows assessments approved by the state of Florida for use in the ABE, GED® Preparation (GED®) and Academic Skills Building courses. CASAS Reading GOALS 2 and TABE 13/14 are reportable to the state via state reporting systems beginning in the 2025-26 reporting year.

Approved Assessment	Sunset Date	New Assessment	Transition Before
CASAS Reading GOALS**	6/30/2026	CASAS Reading GOALS 2	7/1/2026
CASAS Reading GOALS 2	6/30/2032*	N/A	N/A
CASAS Math GOALS 2	6/30/2031*	N/A	N/A
ACT WorkKeys Workplace Documents	6/30/2027*	N/A	N/A
ACT WorkKeys Applied Math	6/30/2027*	N/A	N/A
TABE 11 & 12**	6/30/2026	TABE 13 & 14	7/1/2026
TABE 13 & 14	6/30/2027*	N/A	N/A

*Anticipated sunset date based on sunset periods announced in previous NRS Federal Register notices

**Extended sunset date published in the Federal Register on May 8, 2025.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Assessment Series

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

Approved 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
CASAS Reading STEPS	6/30/2031*	N/A	N/A
CASAS Listening STEPS	6/30/2031*	N/A	N/A
BEST Literacy	6/30/2025	BEST Literacy 2.0	7/1/2025
BEST Literacy 2.0	6/30/2031*	N/A	N/A

*Anticipated sunset date based on sunset periods announced in previous NRS Federal Register notices.

ESOL Assessment Series table continued

Approved Assessment	Sunset Date	New Assessment	Transition Before
BEST Plus 2.0	6/30/2025	BEST Plus 3.0	7/1/2025
BEST Plus 3.0	6/30/2031*	N/A	N/A
TABE CLAS-E Forms A and B	6/30/2025	TABE CLAS-E Forms C and D	7/1/2025
TABE CLAS-E Forms C and D	6/30/2027*	N/A	N/A

* Anticipated sunset date based on sunset periods announced in previous NRS Federal Register notices.

Data Reporting

TABE 11/12, TABE 13/14, CASAS Reading GOALS & CASAS Reading GOALS 2 Assessment Reporting

- **CASAS Reading GOALS** – Due to the extension of use until June 30, 2026, CASAS Reading GOALS will remain on all adult test data elements and appendices through the summer term of the 2026-27 reporting year. This will allow agencies with new reporting years that begin prior to June 30 to report assessment usage up to June 30, 2026, which falls within the summer term of their 2026-27 reporting year.
- **CASAS Reading GOALS 2** – This newly approved assessment has been added to all 2025-26 data elements and appendices and agencies may begin using it for placement into the 2025-26 summer term and beyond.
- **TABE 11/12** - Due to the extension of use until June 30, 2026, TABE 11/12 will remain on all adult test data elements and appendices through the summer term of the 2026-27 reporting year. This will allow agencies with new reporting years that begin prior to June 30 to report assessment usage up to June 30, 2026, which falls within the summer term of their 2026-27 reporting year.
- **TABE 13/14** - This newly approved assessment has been added to all 2025-26 data elements and appendices and agencies may begin using it for placement into the 2025-26 summer term and beyond.

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

Consistent with Florida's assessment policy, agencies are to report students based on their assessment score and associated Educational Functioning Level (EFL). When replacing an expiring assessment series with 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 their 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 extension of the sunset of CASAS Reading GOALS, all GED® program students, continuing and new, may be placed using the new CASAS Reading GOALS 2 assessment or CASAS Reading GOALS. 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 the 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.

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

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