




STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

PHIL MURPHY  
Governor

ROBERT ASARO-ANGELO  
Commissioner

SHEILA OLIVER  
Lieutenant Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: WDB Directors, One-Stop Operations Managers, Workforce Development Managers  
FROM: Hugh Bailey, Assistant Commissioner   
SUBJECT: Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English Language Acquisition (ELA) Testing  
DATE: April 10, 2019

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As you may know, the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) has changed. While there are a number of implications, we believe one of the most important will result in our career seekers and occupational training candidates spending significantly more time taking the assessment. Considering the federal guidance and review of the new Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE), we must continue to ensure our customers are receiving quality service and support. Thus, we are concerned that asking our customers to spend more time taking an assessment will dampen their fervor as it relates to their job search. As a result, we believe a thoughtful and structured transition to utilizing the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) assessment tool will better serve the workforce system.

An internal review of all the approved tests were facilitated by experts within LWD, including the time associated with testing, requirements for implementation, and evaluation of overall client experiences and pathways. Factoring in the effectiveness of CASAS versus TABE, LWD has determined that CASAS will be used as the standard testing instrument for Adult Basic Education (ABE) testing, beginning July 1, 2019. Once all portions of the CASAS English Language Acquisition (ELA) assessments are approved, this guidance will be updated accordingly.

Consequently, all Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) and One-Stop centers should begin to phase out remaining supplies of TABE 11/12 and follow recommendations from existing test developers concerning post-testing. LWD will allow local areas to continue to use remaining supplies of TABE 11/12 through November 2019.

We truly appreciate your continued support as we strive to maintain accuracy and consistency regarding literacy and language skills for adult learners across program/titles.

Please refer to the directive stated in TEGL 16-16 for further guidance regarding collaboration between all partners to demonstrate an integrated system with operational policies that work best to serve our customers: [https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL\\_16-16\\_Acc.pdf](https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL_16-16_Acc.pdf)

**The New Jersey approved assessments for Adult Basic Education (ABE) testing effective Jul 1, 2019:**

- Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) – **Reading GOALS Series** – forms 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, and 908 are approved for use on paper and through the computer-based delivery format through February 5, 2025 for *ABE students*.
- Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) – **Math GOALS Series** – forms 900, 913, 914, 917, and 918 are approved for use on paper and through the computer-based delivery format through March 6, 2022 for *ABE students*.

**The New Jersey approved assessments for English Language Acquisition (ELA) testing effective July 1, 2019:**

- TABE Complete Language Assessment System – English (TABE CLAS – E) (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing) – forms A and B are approved for use on paper through February 2, 2021 for *English Language Acquisition (ELA) students*.
- Basic English Skills Test (**BEST Plus 2.0**) (Speaking and Listening Skills) – forms D, E, and F are approved for use on paper and through computer-adaptive delivery format through February 2, 2021 for *ELA students*.
- Basic English Skills Test (**BEST Literacy**) (Reading and Writing Skills) – forms B, C, and D are approved for use on paper through February 2, 2021 for *ELA students*.
- Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) – **Reading Assessments (Life and Work, Life Skills, Reading for Citizenship, Reading for Language Arts-Secondary Level)** – forms 27, 28, 81, 82, 81X, 82X, 83, 84, 85, 86, 185, 186, 187, 188, 310, 311, 513, 514, 951, 952, 951X, and 952X are approved for use on paper and through the computer-based delivery format through February 2, 2021 for *ELA students* (*for ABE students, the expiration date on this assessment is June 30, 2019*).

**CASAS – Life and Work Listening Assessments (LW Listening)** – forms 981L, 982L, 983L, 984L, 985L, and 986L are approved for use on paper and through the computer-based delivery format through February 2, 2021 for *ELA students*.