Department of Education

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# ADULT EDUCATION MEMO NO. 66-24

**DATE:** January 16, 2024

**TO:** Adult Education Program Administrators

**FROM:** Dr. J. Anthony Williams, Director

 Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

## SUBJECT: Extension of Existing Approval and Announcement of New Tests Approved in Virginia for Assessments Reported in the National Reporting System

This memo announces that the [*2023-2024 Assessment and Distance Education Policy for Virginia Adult Education and Literacy Programs*](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/34728/638216496318270000) has been updated, effective immediately. All program staff involved in administering assessments should be made aware of the changes.

The updates described below are based on the publication of the Federal Register announcement of [July 13, 2023](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/07/13/2023-14825/tests-determined-to-be-suitable-for-use-in-the-national-reporting-system-for-adult-education) and [August 24, 2023](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/08/24/2023-18200/tests-determined-to-be-suitable-for-use-in-the-national-reporting-system-for-adult-education) (correction) of the extension of existing approvals and announcements of new tests approved for use in the National Reporting System (NRS).

Should a provider decide to adopt one of the new assessments for use in the 2023-2024 program year, they must inform the VDOE of such a change in their program design and communicate their plan to ensure assessors are certified on the new test(s) and staff have been trained in the implementation procedures. This information should be sent in writing to OAEL@doe.virginia.gov.

The following tests are approved for an extended period until June 30, 2024, for use by adult education programs in Virginia for the subject areas indicated.

English as a Second Language (ESL) tests:

1. Basic English Skills Test (BEST) Literacy
2. Basic English Skills Test (BEST) Plus 2.0
3. *Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) Life and Work Listening Assessments (LW Listening)*
4. Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) Reading Assessments (Life and Work)
5. *Tests of Adult Basic Education Complete Language Assessment System-English (TABE/CLAS-E)*

Adult basic and secondary education (ABE/ASE) test:

1. *Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) Math GOALS Series*

The following tests are approved for a seven-year period until July 13, 2030, for use by adult education programs in Virginia for the subject areas indicated.

English as a Second Language (ESL) tests:

1. *Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) Listening STEPS*
2. *Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) Reading STEPS*

Adult basic and secondary education (ABE/ASE) test:

1. *Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) Math GOALS 2 Series*

Reminder of Assessment Policy #10: Students must be pre- and post-tested on the same assessment instrument in order to report a Measurable Skill Gain (MSG). As programs begin new student registration in 2024, it may be strategic to plan for such students to be pre-tested on a new assessment in case those students are not ready for a post-test before June 30, 2024, when the extended approval for some of the older assessments will expire.

If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Silver-Pacuilla, Ph.D., Adult Education Coordinator, by email at [oael@doe.virginia.gov](file:///%5C%5CWCS02021%5Cgroupdir%5CADULTED%5CGeneral%20Correspondence%5CAdult%20Ed%20Correspondence%5CFinals%20for%20Web%5Coael%40doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 774-2377.

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