

ASSESSMENT POLICY and DISTANCE EDUCATION POLICY

FOR VIRGINIA

ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY PROGRAMS

Effective: January 8, 2024 - June 30, 2024

ADDENDUM Effective: March 8, 2024

Virginia Department of Education

Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

[**OAEL@doe.virginia.gov**](mailto:OAEL@doe.virginia.gov)

(804) 750-8163

This addendum provides approval for the BEST Literacy 2.0 and BEST Plus 3.0 assessments beginning March 8, 2024. See Guidelines for each assessment and the EFL Worksheet below.

| **Assessment Name** | **Basic English Skills Test (BEST) Literacy 2.0** |
| --- | --- |
| Applicable Program | Suitable for use at ESL levels 1-4 of the NRS |
| Subject | Reading and Writing |
| Active Date | July 13, 2023 |
| Expiration Date | July 13, 2030 |
| Applicable NRS Levels and Scale Score Ranges | See Addendum to Appendix B. |
| Version Available | Print |
| Administration Type | Individual or group |
| Administration Time | 1 hour (approximately) |
| Forms Available | Forms 1, 2, and 3 are approved for use on paper |
| Length before Pre-test | Within first six hours of instruction |
| Length before Post-test | 40 hours minimum |
| Item Type/Content | The BEST Literacy 2.0 assessment addresses reading and writing skills of English language learners. The assessment is aligned with the 2016 English Language Proficiency Standards for Adult Education and the 2017 NRS EFLs for English as a Second Language. Updated question types and themes that reflect contemporary life in the U.S. |
| Scoring Procedures | Two skill areas are measured: Reading and Writing. Reviewers rate responses using rubrics on the specific parts of the assessment. A raw score is generated and converted to a scale score. (Scale score determines EFL.) |
| Accommodations | See Test Manual. |
| Training Requirements | To become an assessor for BEST Literacy 2.0, individuals must successfully complete the certification training provided by the Center for Applied Linguistics. |

| **Assessment Name** | **Basic English Skills Test (BEST) PLUS 3.0** |
| --- | --- |
| Applicable Program | Computer-adaptive: Suitable for use at all ESL levels 1-6; Print-based: Suitable for ESL levels 1-4 |
| Subject | Speaking and Listening |
| Active Date | July 13, 2023 |
| Expiration Date | July 13, 2030 |
| Applicable NRS Levels and Scale Score Ranges | See Addendum to Appendix B. |
| Version Available | Computer-adaptive; print |
| Administration Type | Individual |
| Administration Time | 3-20 minutes (approximately – depending on the learner’s ability) |
| Forms Available | Forms 1 and 2 are approved for use on paper and through a computer-based delivery format with adaptive (Part A) and fixed form (Part B) sections. |
| Length before Pre-test | Within first six hours of instruction |
| Length before Post-test | 40 hours minimum |
| Item Type/Content | The BEST Plus 3.0 addresses speaking and listening skills of English language learners. The assessment is aligned with the 2016 English Language Proficiency Standards for Adult Education and the 2017 NRS EFLs for English as a Second Language. Part A assesses listening comprehension, language complexity, and communication. Part B assesses meaning development. |
| Scoring Procedures | The test is scored live as the student responds on a scoring rubric. Computer-based or print-based scores are entered into the online test platform to generate reports and manage data. |
| Accommodations | See Test Administrator Guide. |
| Training Requirements | To become an assessor for BEST Plus 3.0, individuals must successfully complete the certification training provided by the Center for Applied Linguistics. |

# FY2023-2024 Test Subject EFL Worksheet

ESL Assessments

**BEST Literacy 2.0**

| **Subject** | **ESL Level 1** | **ESL Level 2** | **ESL Level 3** | **ESL Level 4** | **ESL Level 5** | **ESL Level 6** | **ESL Completer** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reading | 100-177 | 178-203 | 204-233 | 234-261 | 262-300\* | --- | --- |
| Writing | 100-187 | 188-214 | 215-254 | 255-300 | --- | --- | --- |
| Composite | 100-182 | 183-209 | 210-244 | 245-300 | --- | --- | --- |

*\*Students can be placed into ESL Level 5 using Best Literacy 2.0, but the test does not assess skills beyond this level, so students cannot exit ESL Level 5 with this test. Retesting of students who enter this level with another assessment is recommended.*

**BEST Plus 3.0 Computer-based Test**

| **Subject** | **ESL Level 1** | **ESL Level 2** | **ESL Level 3** | **ESL Level 4** | **ESL Level 5** | **ESL Level 6** | **ESL Completer** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Speaking and Listening | 600-677 | 678-702 | 703-726 | 727-752 | 753-785 | 786-849\*\* |  |

*\*\*Above ESL Level 6: 850 and higher on computer-based test.*

**BEST Plus 3.0 Print-based Test**

| **Subject** | **ESL Level 1** | **ESL Level 2** | **ESL Level 3** | **ESL Level 4** | **ESL Level 5** | **ESL Level 6** | **ESL Completer** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Speaking and Listening | 600-677 | 678-702 | 703-726 | 727-752\*\*\* |  |  |  |

*\*\*\*Above ESL Level 4: 753 and higher on print-based test.*

**BACK COVER**

***Statement of Non-Discrimination***

*VDOE does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, political affiliation or against otherwise qualified persons with disabilities. The policy permits appropriate employment preferences for veterans and specifically prohibits discrimination against veterans. The following position has been designated to handle inquiries regarding VDOE’s non-discrimination policies:*

*Director of Human Resources*

*Virginia Department of Education*

*P. O. Box 2120*

*Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120*

*Telephone: (804) 774-4280*

*For further information on Federal non-discrimination regulations, contact the Office for Civil Rights at*[*OCR.DC@ed.gov*](mailto:OCR.DC@ed.gov)

*or call 1-800-421-3481.*