

ESL Assessment Practices to Optimize MSGs

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AGENDA

- I. What is an MSG?
- II. ESL Test Options in Illinois
- III. What does “Standardized” mean?
- IV. Practices to Optimize MSGs for All Tests
- V. Practices to Optimize MSGs for Individual Tests
- VI. ESL Assessment: Looking Ahead

I. What is an MSG?

- * MSG = **Measurable Skill Gain**
- * MSGs are one of the **WIOA Performance Measures**
- * ESL students attain an MSG when they **move** from one NRS Educational Functioning Level (EFL) to the next, as demonstrated by their performance on designated standardized tests

II. ESL Test Options In Illinois

TEST	FY18 – Number of Tests Given
BEST Plus 2.0	3,060
BEST Literacy	5,117
CASAS Life and Work Series, Reading	56,608

III. What does “standardized” mean?

- * “Standardized” means that a test is **given and scored** the same way, under the same conditions, for every student, every time, in every location
- * Standardization requires well-trained test administrators / proctors
- * In many ICCB programs, ESL teachers wear two hats, Teacher and Test Proctor

The qualities & roles of effective ESL Teachers and Test Proctors are very different.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>ESL Teacher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Supportive * Helper * Flexible * Creative * Sense of Humor * Meets individual student needs | <p>Test Proctor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Strict * Time Keeper * Inflexible * Rule Follower * Ensures standard procedures are followed |
|---|--|

IV. Practices to Optimize MSGs on All Tests




The slide features three logos: 'BEST Plus 2.0' with a red and black square icon, 'BEST Literacy' with a red and black square icon, and 'CASAS' in blue stylized text. All logos are enclosed within a blue oval.

✓ Don't help students during the test

What will happen if you do this?

- Students may receive higher scores than their actual skills would attain
- Students may perform lower on subsequent tests (when help is not given) resulting in negative gains and the inability to attain MSGs

✓ Don't speak languages other than English once the test begins



The slide contains four speech bubbles with text in different languages: Polish ('Zaznacz swoje odpowiedzi w książeczce testowej ...'), Chinese ('在测试手册中标出你的答案...'), Hindi ('तुमहारा जवाबोने परीक्षा पुस्तिकांमां माई करी ...'), and Nepali ('कु चलाअमदी जवाबहा बुग-याराहा इतिकांका ...').

✓ All BEST Plus testers must be trained by a CAL-certified trainer

- * All testers must be trained by a trainer certified by the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)
- * Testers cannot train others



What will happen if you don't do this?

- Cannot order tests
- Incorrect and invalid scores
- Inaccurate MSGs



✓ Testers should recalibrate regularly

- * Have all testers calibrate their scoring annually to ensure interrater reliability
- * Testers can attend training as a refresher
- * CAL sells a BEST Plus Scoring Refresher Kit

What will happen if you don't do this?

- Drift – scores will not be aligned with the rubric
- Incorrect and invalid scoring
- Inaccurate MSGs



✓ Testing space must be quiet

What will happen if you don't do this?

- Student can't hear questions
- Tester can't hear responses
- Incorrect scoring
- Inaccurate MSGs




Practices to Optimize MSGs When Using



Did you know that **29** Illinois programs used BEST Literacy in FY18?

BEST Literacy

- * Assesses reading and writing in life skills contexts
- * NRS ESL levels 1-5-- **not level 6**
- * Students write in consumable test booklets
- * Can give to a group
- * 60 minutes
- * Hand scored




✓ Don't use BEST Literacy with Advanced ESL Students (NRS level 6)

BEST Literacy does not test Advanced ESL



CASAS or BEST Plus must be used for Advanced ESL

What will happen if you do this?

- No MSGs for Advanced ESL students

NRS Level	Score Ranges
1	0-20
2	21-52
3	53-63
4	64-67
5	68-75
	76-78
Exit Criteria	NA


✓ Don't give extra time
✓ Don't photocopy test booklets



What will happen if you do this?

- Test is no longer standardized
- Invalid scores
- Invalid MSGs

✓ Ensure that each person who scores the test has a current BEST Literacy Test Manual – June 2008



What will happen if you don't do this?

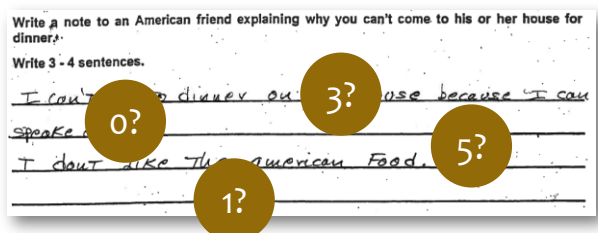
- Inaccurate and invalid scores
- Invalid MSGs

June 2008

✓ Attend ALRC BEST Literacy Training

- * Not required, but **highly recommended** 🙌🙌
- * Scoring is NOT intuitive

Write a note to an American friend explaining why you can't come to his or her house for dinner.
Write 3 - 4 sentences.




Practices to Optimize MSGs When Using



Did you know that 49 Illinois programs used CASAS in FY18?


CASAS Life and Work Series, Reading

- * Tests reading comprehension for both native and non-native speakers
Note: IL uses this test only for non-native speakers
- * NRS ESL levels 1-6
- * Both paper and computer versions (the eTest)
- * An initial Appraisal places students into the correct pre-test level
- * Can give to a group
- * 25 minutes for the Appraisal; 60 minutes for Pre /Post-Tests
- * Paper version is scored by hand or Scantron; computer version is scored automatically



✓ All programs must have at least one staff member trained by a certified CASAS trainer


- * CASAS online training is not acceptable in IL as a replacement for in-person training
- * Those trained can do in-house training if their own training is up to date



Catherine Porter
Illinois' Certified
CASAS State Trainer

What will happen if you don't do this?

- Cannot order paper or computer-based tests
- Misuse of the Appraisal process
- Errors in selecting the correct Pre- and Post-tests
- Incorrect and invalid scores
- Inaccurate MSGs



FORM 81R		
Raw Score	Score	NAT
1	*	
2	*	
3	*	Beg. Lit Form 27R
4	*	
5	170	
6	173	
7	176	
8	178	
9	180	
10	182	Level A Form 82R
11	184	
12	186	
13	189	
14	191	
15	193	
16	195	
17	197	
18	200	Level A Form 81RX
19	203	
20	205*	
21	206*	
22	208*	Level B Form 83R
23	209*	
24	210*	

Pre-Test: Form 81R
Raw Score: 22
Scale Score: 208

FORM 83R		
Raw Score	Scale Score	NAT
1	*	
2	*	
3	*	Level A Form 81R
4	186	
5	189	
6	191	
7	194	Level AX Form 81RX
8	195	
9	197	
10	199	
11	200	
12	202	
13	203	
14	205	
15	206	
16	208	
17	209	Level B Form 84R
18	210	
19	212	
20	213	
21	215	
22	216	
23	218	
24	220	
25	222	
26	224	
27	226	
28	229	
29	230*	Level C** Form 85R or 85RX
30	231*	
31	232*	
32	234*	


Post-Test: Form 83R
Raw Score: 7
Scale Score: 194

Pre-Test: 208
Post-Test: 194

- No MSG now
- Little chance for MSG this FY

✓ Have a limited number of well-trained people determining which CASAS forms to administer for pre- and post-testing

- * Those responsible for determining CASAS pre and post-test forms must be trained.
- * It is not advisable to have individual classroom instructors determine which CASAS forms to give for the post-test.
- * The more individuals involved in assigning test forms, the more room there is for error.



✓ Use the CASAS “Sample Test Items” to help students become familiar with the CASAS test, reduce anxiety, and develop test-taking skills

- * There are “Sample Test Items” for each level of the CASAS paper test and for the eTest located at casas.org

What will happen if you do this?

- Students who are familiar with the format of the paper or eTest will likely perform better than those who are not
- Improved MSGs

VI. ESL Assessment: Looking Ahead

ABE/ASE	ESL
New NRS levels in use <i>More rigorous to align with CCR Standards</i>	New NRS levels written but not yet in use <i>More rigorous to align with ELP Standards</i>
New tests in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TABE 11/12 • CASAS GOALS Test 	New tests being developed, field tested and submitted to OCTAE for approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CASAS GOALS Test • Revised BEST Plus • Revised BEST Literacy

Current ESL tests are approved for use by OCTAE through June 2019, but there will likely be a “sunset period” added.

2019 Training Dates

- * BEST Plus – February 12, 2019
- * CASAS – February 5, 2019

Contact Laurie Martin if you need training before these dates or if you need BEST Literacy training.

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