

**MATH GOALS FOR ABE AND ASE**  
**GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULT LEARNING SUCCESS**  
**FAQS**

## **NRS Approval**

*1. What is the NRS approval status of the new Math GOALS test series?*

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) has approved the Math GOALS test series for NRS reporting purposes through March 6, 2022, in the instructional program areas of **Adult Basic Education (ABE)** and **Adult Secondary Education (ASE)**. CASAS will submit additional data and technical material to extend the approval period.

## **Using Math GOALS**

*2. Is Math GOALS available in CASAS eTests and on paper?*

The Math GOALS test forms were developed for both web-based testing using CASAS eTests Web test units (WTUs), as well as paper-based testing. Math GOALS will be available in CASAS eTests in mid-April. Math GOALS paper-based test materials can be ordered and will be shipped by the end of April. NOTE: Shipment of orders for California WIOA II-funded agencies will begin July 1, 2019.

*3. Which locator or appraisal (placement) test should agencies use with Math GOALS?*

Agencies that use CASAS eTests may use the Form 104M Math GOALS Locator test. The Form 900M Math GOALS Appraisal is the **only appraisal** appropriate for use with paper-based pre- and post-tests in the Math GOALS series.

*4. How long does a placement test take?*

The **Form 104M Math Locator** (used only in CASAS eTests) is a 15-minute test with 10 questions. It automatically places the student in the correct pretest level.

The **Form 900M Math GOALS Appraisal** is a 30-minute test with 20 questions.

*5. What pre- and post-tests does Math GOALS use?*

The Math GOALS series includes pre- and post-test Forms 913M-914M at Levels A/B and Forms 917M-918M at Levels C/D.

*6. Why are there two test levels and not four like before?*

The Math GOALS series was designed to cover priority content in all of the categories of the NRS Descriptors for ABE/ASE and the CCRS Math Standards in order to measure progress in the six NRS levels (EFLs) for ABE and ASE. CASAS determined that two test levels could adequately do this.

7. *Do we need to order new Test Administration Manuals (TAMs)?*

The Math GOALS TAM includes information about administration and scoring for both the Math GOALS Locator/Appraisal and the pre- and posttest test forms.

8. *How long are the Levels A/B and C/D in Math GOALS pre- and post-tests?*

The Level A/B tests are 60-minute tests. Tests at Level C/D are 75-minute tests. Level A/B tests have 40 questions and tests at Level C/D have 38 questions.

Math GOALS			Timing
CASAS Level	Form Number	Number of Test Items	Students have up to
A/B	Form 913	40	60 min.
A/B	Form 914	40	60 min.
C/D	Form 917	38	75 min.
C/D	Form 918	38	75 min.

9. *Which answer sheets should agencies use with the Form 900M Math GOALS Appraisal?*

To score the test with TOPSpro Enterprise: TOPSpro Student Test Record

To score the test manually: General Purpose answer sheet

10. *Which answer sheets should agencies use with Math GOALS pre- and post-tests?*

To score the test with TOPSpro Enterprise: TOPSpro Student Test Record

To score the test manually: General Purpose answer sheet

11. *Are TOPSpro Enterprise reports available for Math GOALS?*

Yes. Math GOALS test score reports are available in TOPSpro Enterprise. CASAS Competency reports as well as CASAS Math Content Standard reports will be available by June 2019.

## Math GOALS and Life Skills Math

12. *How is the content of the Math GOALS series different from the content of the Life Skills Math series?*

Math GOALS is aligned to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standards for Adult Education (2013) and covers the full range of ability levels in the CCR Standards from beginning literacy through adult secondary mathematics. Math GOALS measures the rigorous academic math skills contained in the Standards that are most relevant to preparing adults for success in college, technical training programs, and employment. The series draws on higher-order skills involving basic and advanced math operations, statistics and probability, geometry, and other fields of math. Test content continues to be tested in the context of CASAS Competencies to maintain relevance for adult learners, including an emphasis on work-related math.

**13. May students use a calculator with the Math GOALS series?**

Yes. Calculators are embedded in CASAS eTests for students to use. Programs that use paper-based tests **must** provide students with a basic calculator (not a graphing calculator). Students are **not** allowed to use calculators found on cell phones.

**14. How do Math GOALS scale score ranges compare to Life Skills Math ranges and why are they different?**

For every new test series, CASAS convenes a national group of experts to participate in a standard-setting research study. For the new Math GOALS series, CASAS asked a panel of experienced adult education math practitioners to refer to the [new NRS Educational Functioning Level \(EFL\) Descriptors for Math](#) (see Appendix B-12) to determine where the cut scores for each EFL should be on more than 100 Math GOALS test questions ordered by difficulty level. These experts determined the Math GOALS scale score ranges for the new NRS levels.

The chart below shows the NRS EFLs for ABE/ASE and the related scale score ranges for the Life Skills Math series (on the left) and the new NRS EFLs for ABE/ASE Mathematics and the scale score ranges for the Math GOALS series (on the right). The new EFLs for ABE/ASE Mathematics contain a new Middle Intermediate level and merge Low and High Adult Secondary levels into Adult Secondary.

NRS EFLs for ABE/ASE	Life Skills Math 30 Series Scale Score Ranges	New NRS EFLs for ABE/ASE Mathematics	Math GOALS 900 Series Scale Score Ranges
1 Beginning Literacy	200 and below	1 Beginning Literacy	193 and below
2 Beginning Basic	201-210	2 Beginning Basic	194 - 203
3 Low Intermediate	211-220	3 Low Intermediate	204 - 214
4 High Intermediate	221-235	<b>4 Middle Intermediate</b>	215 - 225
5 Low Adult Secondary	236-245	5 High Intermediate	226 - 235
6 High Adult Secondary	246 and above	<b>6 Adult Secondary</b>	236 and above

**Transitioning to Math GOALS**

**15. When can agencies begin using Math GOALS for NRS reporting?**

Agencies may begin using Math GOALS when they have permission from their state.

**16. Can agencies pretest with Life Skills Math while transitioning to Math GOALS?**

No. It is crucial that pre- and post-testing always occurs within the same series to ensure test reliability and validity.

*17. Should agencies switch to the Math GOALS series for ABE and ASE now?*

Pre- and post-testing always must occur within the same test series. If agencies have used a series other than Math GOALS for pretesting, they must use that same series for post-testing. Agencies should look at their testing timeline to determine when to begin to use the Math GOALS series. Please note that the Life Skills Math series has approval for NRS reporting through June 30, 2019. California WIOA II-funded agencies may begin using Math GOALS for their ABE and ASE population starting July 2019. Programs outside California should check with their appropriate state office to learn when they may begin using Math GOALS.

*18. What should agencies do with any math test materials that are no longer in use after the switch to Math GOALS?*

Agencies should never use retired tests for test practice with students.

Do not destroy Form 80 Appraisal materials if they are necessary for testing in Life and Work Listening.

Please dispose of all test materials in the following manner:

1. Shred test booklets and test support materials.
2. Notify CASAS on school/agency letterhead with this information:
  - a. Number of test booklets and test forms shredded
  - b. Date of shredding
  - c. Signature of school/agency administrator
3. Retain a copy of the letter for agency records.

## **Interpreting Math GOALS Scores**

*19. If someone scores in the low-end range marked with an asterisk (\*), what is the policy for retesting?*

Examinees who score at the low-end range do not receive a scale score. If a student scores at the low-end range on a Level A/B test, CASAS suggests additional instruction before retesting the student on the alternate Level A/B test form. Those who score in the low-end range of a Level C/D test should take the Level A/B test form to obtain a scale score and NRS level.

*20. If someone scores in the high-end conservative estimate range marked with a diamond (◆), must the person retest or can agencies use the high-end score?*

- a. *Pretest:* Examinees who score at the high conservative estimate/diamond range on an A/B pretest form should retest at the next highest test level.
- b. *Post-test:* Examinees who score at this range on an A/B post-test also should retest at the next highest test level. If it is not possible to administer another post-test because the semester is over or the student is unavailable, programs may use the post-test score, even **if it falls within the conservative estimate/diamond range.**

21. *Level A/B tests do not give a scale score until item 5. Level C/D tests do not do so until item 11. Why is there a need to answer this number of questions to obtain a scale score?*  
This ensures that students answer enough questions to assess their math level reliably.

## NRS Reporting

22. *What information regarding learning gains meets WIOA/NRS reporting requirements?*  
Agencies and states report students' learning gains when students move from one NRS Educational Functioning Level (EFL) to another. The NRS system does not ask for student progress by scale score, only by EFL advancement. Please see the chart in question 14 that shows the NRS EFLs.
23. *What about agencies that do not report to NRS? How do they calculate learning gains?*  
These agencies usually monitor students' learning gains by pre- and post-test scale scores.
24. *In which instructional areas may agencies use the Math GOALS series?*  
Agencies that do not report data for WIOA may use the Math GOALS series in any instructional program that focuses on mathematics. For WIOA/NRS reporting, programs may use Math GOALS only in ABE/ASE programs.
25. *Is there a chart that shows which CASAS tests have approval for NRS reporting?*  
Yes. Click [here](#) for a chart or follow this path: [www.casas.org](http://www.casas.org) > Training and Support > WIOA and NRS Compliance > NRS Approval of CASAS

## Getting Started in CASAS eTests

26. *How do agencies get started using Math GOALS in CASAS eTests?*  
Agencies may edit their existing ABE and ASE instructional program templates to update multiple sessions sharing the templates. They also may contact the technical support team at [techsupport@casas.org](mailto:techsupport@casas.org) for assistance with editing or adding new templates with sessions for Math GOALS.

## Additional CASAS Resources

27. *What is the status of Math GOALS in the QuickSearch Online database of curriculum and instructional materials?*  
Curriculum specialists are continually reviewing resource materials (textbooks, DVDs, software programs, websites) that correlate to the CASAS Competencies and Content Standards addressed in Math GOALS. Instructors can use QuickSearch to locate materials by competencies or by content standards. CASAS will include the search by Math GOALS series in QuickSearch Online in the future.

Be sure to visit the [CASAS Math GOALS](#) page at [CASAS.org](http://CASAS.org) for more information.