

CASAS Level A Inaccurate Scores: Change to Assign a Scale Score

Summary of Change:

In consultation with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Adult Education, CASAS is updating the score conversion tables for Level A tests on Reading GOALS, Math GOALS 2, Reading STEPS, and Listening STEPS.

Currently on each of these test series, test takers who score 0 through 3 correct on the test are reported as "inaccurate" and receive an asterisk (*) instead of a scale score. Test takers will no longer receive an asterisk for a score and will instead receive the lowest scale score on the test and assigned to NRS Level 1. This change applies to **CASAS Level A tests only**.

Need and Benefit

We have received feedback from programs around the country about the need to assign students who score 0 through 3 on Level A tests a scale score and to classify them at NRS Level 1. Assigning the score and NRS Level ensures that students can be served by programs, receive a pretest score, and can make progress on the test when they post-test.

This change will allow agencies to provide a scale score and NRS Level for the students who score at the lowest end of the Level A scale, without the need to retest.

This change will also allow educators who have an established intake process to identify those lowest level students who are not able to be accurately tested with the Level A test. These students can be assigned the lowest scale score (i.e. 160 for Reading STEPS) and be classified into NRS Level 1. They would then be eligible to make progress based on their subsequent test score. This helps to avoid unnecessary testing and creates a more efficient agency placement process.

Details of Change

At this time, the lowest raw test scores on Level A Forms are reported as "inaccurate" and have no corresponding scale score. For example, for Reading STEPS, Listening STEPS, and Math GOALS 2, students who receive a raw score of 0 through 3 are deemed inaccurate and do not receive a corresponding scale score. These students without a pretest scale score must be administered a new pretest (retested) after an appropriate amount of instruction to establish a reliable pretest score and be able to document educational gains on the subsequent posttest. See Figure 1.

This change will assign the lowest scale score (the scale score at the raw score=4) to each of the raw score points 0 through 3. It will also assign NRS Level 1 to each score point. See Figure 2.

NOTE: TOPSpro Enterprise/CASAS eTest scoring and reporting are being modified to reflect these changes and will be released by early December. We are also in the process of updating our online training materials.

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Figure 1 Current Reading STEPS Level A Test, Form 621

Student Raw Score	Student Scale Score	NRS Level	Next Assigned Test
0	*		**
1	*		
2	*		
3	*		
4	160	1	Level A, Form 622

*No Scale Score is assigned

**Student is retested with the same test, after instruction, to get an accurate score

This change will assign the lowest scale score (the scale score at the raw score=4) and NRS Level 1 to each of the raw score points 0 through 3. See Figure 2.

Figure 2 Change to Reading STEPS Level A Test, Form 621

Student Raw Score	Student Scale Score	NRS Level	Next Assigned Test
0	160	1	Level A, Form 622
1	160		
2	160		
3	160		
4	160	1	Level A, Form 622

Score Conversion Table Changes

The following excerpts include the changes described for each test series. State data systems will need to be updated to reflect this change. It is also the responsibility of states to inform other partners and vendors of this change, if necessary. See Figures 3 – 7.

Figure 3 Reading STEPS Level A Tests, Form 621 and Form 622

Student Raw Score	Student Scale Score	NRS Level	Next Assigned Test
0	160	1	Level A Form 621/622
1	160		
2	160		
3	160		
4	160	1	Level A Form 621/622

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Figure 4 Listening STEPS Level A Tests, Form 621 and Form 622

Student Raw Score	Student Scale Score	NRS Level	Next Assigned Test
0	158	1	Level A Form 621/622
1	158		
2	158		
3	158		
4	158	1	Level A Form 621/ 622

Figure 5 Reading GOALS Level A Tests, Form 901 and Form 902

Student Raw Score	Student Scale Score	NRS Level	Next Assigned Test
0	165	1	Level A Form 901/902
1	165		
2	165		
3	165		
4	165	1	Level A Form 901/902

Note: The lowest score on Math GOALS 2 Level A Tests Form 921 and 922 are different.

Figure 6 Math GOALS 2 Level A Test, Form 921

Student Raw Score	Student Scale Score	NRS Level	Next Assigned Test
0	170	1	Level A Form 922
1	170		
2	170		
3	170		
4	170	1	Level A Form 922

Figure 7 Math GOALS 2 Level A Test, Form 922

Student Raw Score	Student Scale Score	NRS Level	Next Assigned Test
0	171	1	Level A Form 921
1	171		
2	171		
3	171		
4	171	1	Level A Form 921