Assessing English Language Learners

“My program uses CASAS to place our ESL students into classes and to assess their progress. We find CASAS useful and practical, particularly in our large-scale registrations.” — Howard Dooley, Rhode Island

CASAS — Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems — is the most widely used system in the United States for assessing ELL students. It is the only adult assessment system of its kind approved and validated by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Labor to assess both non-native as well as native English speakers.

CASAS tests measure reading, listening, writing, and speaking from beginning literacy through advanced adult secondary levels. Tests are based on CASAS Competencies and CASAS Content Standards.

Learn the Benefits of CASAS to Meet Your Needs

One system for all program assessment needs
- Assess all levels of ELL and ABE to place learners, diagnose instructional needs, monitor progress
- Report test results on a common scale with skill level descriptors
- Use for transition from ELL to ABE and adult secondary, and to postsecondary and employment readiness
- Predict GED performance

Practical and cost-effective
- Group or individually administered
- Assess one or more skills: reading, listening, writing, or speaking
- Reusable test booklets (paper-and-pencil option)
- Assess via computer with CASAS eTests
- Score electronically or manually
- Affordable initial training costs

Effective Data Collection and Accountability Reporting
- TOPSpro software scores and tracks test results
- TOPSpro software meets all NRS reporting requirements
- Easy-to-read reports for students, administrators, teachers, and state decision makers.

Teacher support materials
- Sample test items for classroom practice
- Class and student test item by competency and content standards reports
- Link test results to instructional resources with QuickSearch

“The rapidly growing English as a Second Language program throughout the state is putting the emphasis on workplace English and workforce education. ESL in the workplace has become the priority for our state and CASAS helps us meet that priority.” — Barry Shafer, State Director of Adult Education in Minnesota
**ELL Assessment System**

Reading: The Life and Work series measures basic reading skills needed for success in life and in the workplace. The series relies on functional contexts such as job applications, newspaper ads, medication labels, receipts, calendars, maps, telephone listings, and more. Tests measure reading comprehension, vocabulary, text in format, use of reference materials, and thinking strategies.

Listening: Listening skills assessed include recognizing vocabulary; understanding imperatives, instructions, and requests; interpreting grammatical structures; understanding conversations; comprehending informational and factual discourse, and making inferences.

Writing: The CASAS Functional Writing Assessment assesses writing skills in functional workplace and life skills contexts. Several states use the Picture Tasks for NRS accountability reporting. Writing samples are scored analytically — using writing rubrics and annotated scoring anchors — to provide useful diagnostic information for teachers and students.

Speaking: The CASAS Workplace Speaking test measures the speaking skills of adult students in a workplace context. Competencies assessed are clustered in three areas: job skills and job information, social language, and workplace safety and customer service.

**Research Background**

Backed by decades of research and development in assessment, instruction, and evaluation, CASAS provides a framework for implementing quality programs with a built-in standardized accountability system for reporting results. CASAS has been used successfully with millions of English language learners.

CASAS is a standards-based system correlated to a variety of national and state-level standards. Visit www.casas.org to view a variety of standards correlations.

A national field-based consortium identifies priority needs based on extensive feedback from adult education providers, employment and training professionals, and business and industry representatives. Assessment, training, and evaluation are based on the critical competencies and skill areas required for success in the workplace, community, and family.

CASAS is a nonprofit organization. Educators continually express appreciation for the fact that CASAS test booklets are affordable, reusable, and tests are scored at the local level. After an initial investment in training (and optional software), the only recurring costs are answer sheets.

“Kansas Adult Education recognizes that CASAS is much more than an assessment system. CASAS is ongoing research. CASAS is listening to and responding to the field of adult education. CASAS is professionals committed to the field of adult education and committed to ongoing improvement. Kansas is very proud to be a part of CASAS! ” — Dianne Glass, Director of Adult Education, Kansas