



Increasing MSGs Now & Preparing for FY25 New Assessments

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Agenda

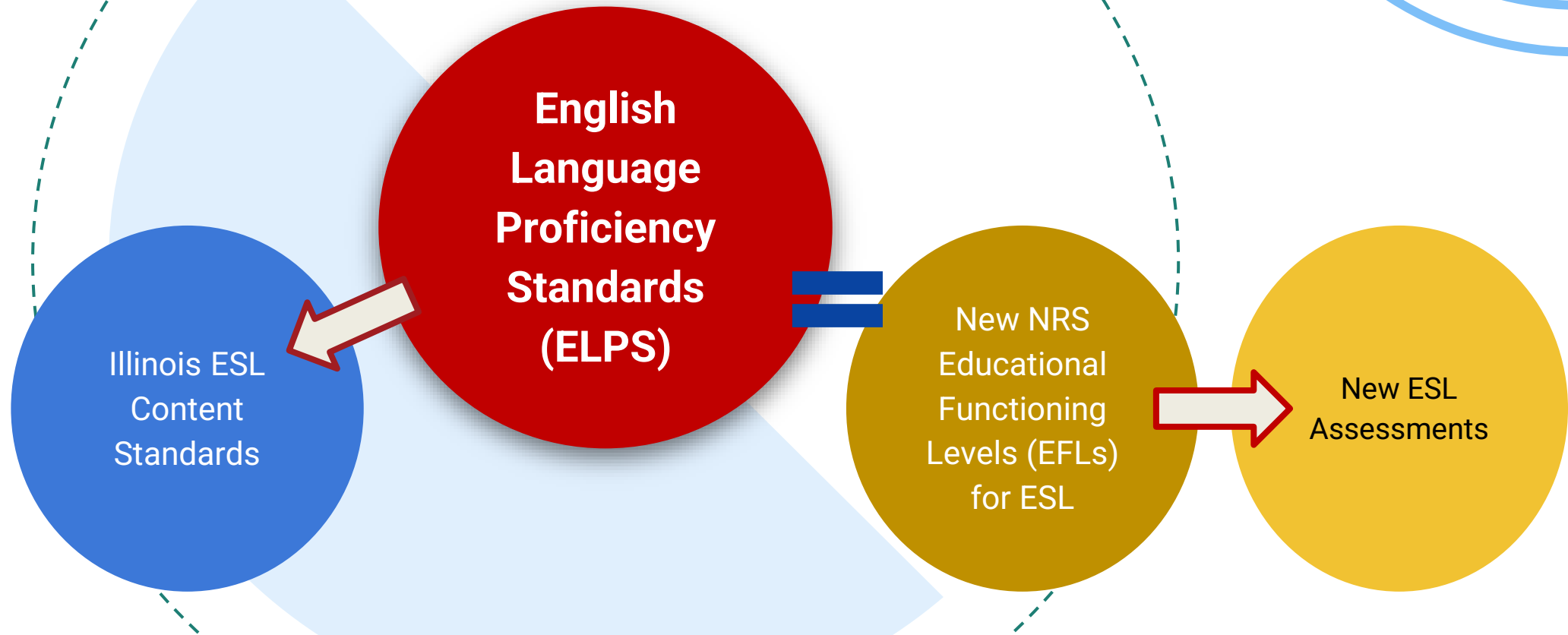
- I. NRS Assessment Updates
- II. Three Strategies Programs Can Use NOW to Maximize MSGs & Prepare for New Assessments
- III. Transition Plans & Activities
- IV. Sneak Peek at [CASAS Reading STEPS](#) and [Math GOALS 2](#)

NRS-Approved Assessments Used in Illinois

FY24	FY25
<p>All tests currently used in Illinois will continue through FY24:</p> <p>ABE/ASE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TABE 11/12 (Reading & Math)• CASAS GOALS (Reading & Math) <p>ESL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CASAS Life and Work Reading• BEST Plus 2.0• BEST Literacy	<p>The complete list of FY25 assessments approved for Illinois use will be announced by ICCB later in FY24.</p> <p>It is anticipated that Illinois will begin using these new tests in FY25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CASAS Reading STEPS• CASAS Math GOALS 2• Other Tests TBD

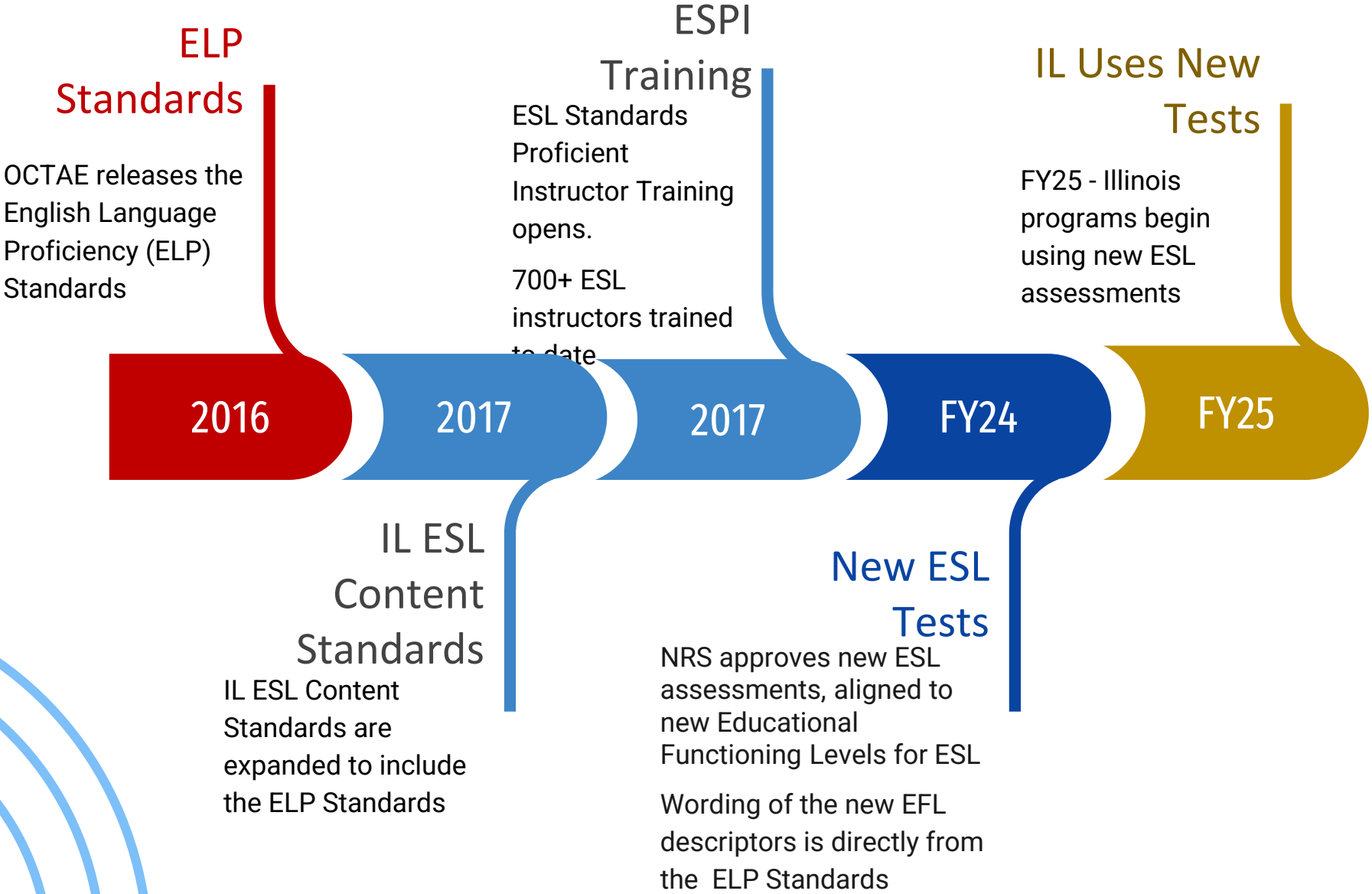
On July 13, 2023, an updated list of NRS-approved assessments for ABE/ASE and ESL was published in the [Federal Register](#).

New ESL Assessments:
It all began with the **English Language Proficiency** Standards!



The ELPS were developed through the OCTAE Project *Preparing Adult English Language Learners for Rigorous College and Career Readiness Standards*, 2015-2018

ESL Standards & Assessments in Illinois



New NRS Educational Functioning Levels (EFLs) for ESL

Wording of the new EFLs comes directly from the ELP Standards

EXAMPLE: Low Intermediate ESL (NRS Level 4)

Interpretive: The ability to process, understand, interpret and/or engage with level-appropriate literary and informational written and spoken text to construct meaning (1, 6, 8)

ELLs ready to exit the Low Intermediate ESL Level are able to determine a central idea or theme in oral presentations and spoken and written texts, retell key details, answer questions about key details, explain how the theme is developed by specific details in texts, and summarize part of a text using a developing set of strategies.

ELLs ready to exit this level are able to, with support, explain the reasons an author or a speaker gives to support a claim and identify one or two reasons an author or a speaker gives to support the main point.

ELP Standard

ELP Standard 1 for the Low Intermediate ESL Level

By the end of English language proficiency level 3, an ELL can... use a developing set of strategies to:

- determine a central idea or theme in oral presentations and spoken and written texts
- retell key details
- answer questions about key details
- explain how the theme is developed by specific details in texts
- summarize part of a text.

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ELP Standard

ELP Standard 6 for the Low Intermediate ESL Level

By the end of English language proficiency level 3, an ELL can...with support:

- explain the reasons an author or a speaker gives to support a claim
- identify one or two reasons an author or a speaker gives to support the main point.

Maximize MSGs & Prepare for New Assessments

Three strategies programs can use NOW!



Strategy 1

Ensure that all instructors participate in [professional development activities](#) by the Illinois Adult Education Professional Development Network (PDN).



Strategy 1

Instructors in their **first year** of adult education teaching:

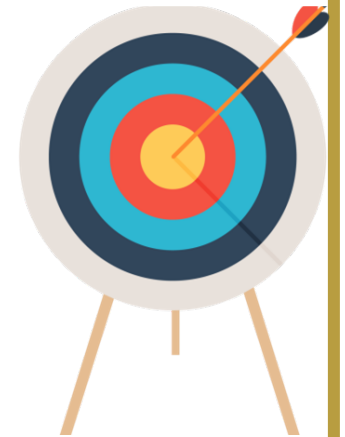
- Complete *Orientation to Adult Education for Instructors* (6 hours in iLEARN)

Instructors with **at least one year** of adult education experience:

- Complete *Standards Proficient Instructor Training* (14 hours)

All Instructors:

- Use the [PD Guide](#) on the excellenceinadulted.org website for other PD recommendations
- Sign up to receive weekly [PDN Pulse](#) email announcements of PD opportunities



Strategy 1

ESL Standards Proficient Instructor Training

Training Goals

- Understand and apply the **English Language Proficiency Standards** in the **IL ESL Content Standards**
- Develop standards-aligned ESL lessons for their classes
- Receive personal feedback on standards-based lesson design

3 ESL Cohorts in FY 24

- October 13 & 20, 2023 (Fridays) *APPLICATION CLOSED*
- November 10 & 17, 2023 (Fridays)
- March 2 & 9, 2024 (Saturdays)



Strategy 1

ABE/ASE instructors Standards Proficient Instructor Training in Language Arts or Math

Training Goals

- Understand and apply the key advances of the [ABE/ASE Content Standards](#) to instruction
- Identify strengths and weaknesses of assignments and student work
- Create ABE/ASE Standards-Aligned Lessons

2 ABE/ASE Cohorts in FY 24

- October 14 & 21, 2023 (Saturdays) *APPLICATION CLOSED*
- April 19 & 26, 2024 (Fridays)



Strategy 1

Encourage SPI-credentialed instructors to take [Specialist Training](#).

Training Goals

- Take a deeper dive into the [Illinois Content Standards](#)
- Apply the standards to instruction
- Prepare instructors to serve as standards specialists in their programs

2 ESL Cohorts for FY 24

- November 4 & 18, 2023 (Saturdays)
- March 22 & April 5, 2024 (Fridays)

1 ABE/ASE Cohort for FY 24

- February 16 & March 21, 2024 (Fridays)



Strategy 1

Draw on the expertise of your program's **Master Teachers** to support curriculum development and instructional best practices.

ESL Master Teacher Training

- 41 current participants
- Familiar with new NRS EFLs
- Trained to assess curricula materials for alignment with ELP Standards

ABE/ASE Master Teacher Training

- 32 credentialed
- Familiar with ABE/ASE Standards
- Trained to assess curricula materials for alignment to ABE/ASE Standards



Strategy 1

Send teachers to PDN training on using test **blueprints and reports** to inform instruction and improve MSGs.

CASAS Tools for Teachers

- ABE/ASE Instructors:
October 13, 2024; [registration](#) open now!
- ESL Instructors: dates TBA

TABE Tools for Teachers

- 1 hour iLEARN course available on demand



Strategy 2

If you are paper testing with CASAS, move to e-Testing!

Why eTest?

- Access **student reports** to inform instruction and improve MSGs
- Save staff scoring time and reduce human error
- Get ICCB's reduced price of <\$2 per eTest (through 2025)
no discount for paper tests
- Use the Assessment Hub (students must have a prior eTest to use the Hub)



Strategy 3

Ensure that your program has an ESL curriculum aligned with the ELP Standards.

- Burlington English
- Stand Out
- Step Forward
- Future
- Ventures
- Other



Current editions of these core ESL series are aligned with the ELP Standards

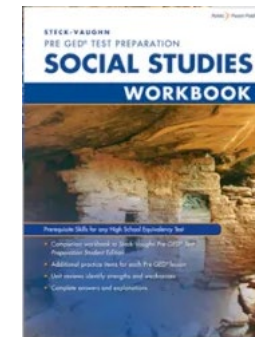
ABE/ASE Curriculum



Ensure that your program has an ABE/ASE curriculum that aligns with the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS).

- Texts published before 2014 will NOT be aligned.
- All curricula resources should be vetted to ensure alignment.

- **i-Pathways**
- Essential Education
- New Readers Press
- Aztec / Steck-Vaughn



i-Pathways

Transition Plans & Activities



Transition Plans & Activities

PD to strengthen standards-based ESL instruction:

- [ESL Institute](#) on applying standards-based instruction – *offered twice!*
 - Fridays: January 26 & February 16, 2024
 - Saturdays: January 27 & February 17, 2024
 - *Appropriate for all ESL instructors!*
 - *A great refresher for instructors who have already had Standards training!*
- [ESL Mini-Con](#) to share best practices practices from the field
 - Friday, April 26, 2024

Transition Plans & Activities

- [Assessment VLC](#) to learn and share best practices for assessment
 - October 11, 2023
 - November 15, 2023
 - February 7, 2024
 - May 8, 2024
- [Retention VLC](#) for teachers to learn and share best practices for student retention
 - Registration for fall cohort opens September 26, 2023
- Training on new tests (content/blueprints & administration) – stay tuned!

Ongoing Communication About the New Assessments

- Check the Assessment Transition FAQs on [Excellence in Adult Education](#) website. FAQs will be updated throughout the year.

Coming soon!

- Watch the [PDN Pulse](#) for announcements of:
 - Training on the new assessments
 - Training related to standards-based instruction

Sneak Peek: CASAS Reading STEPS

STEPS = Student Test of English Progress and Success

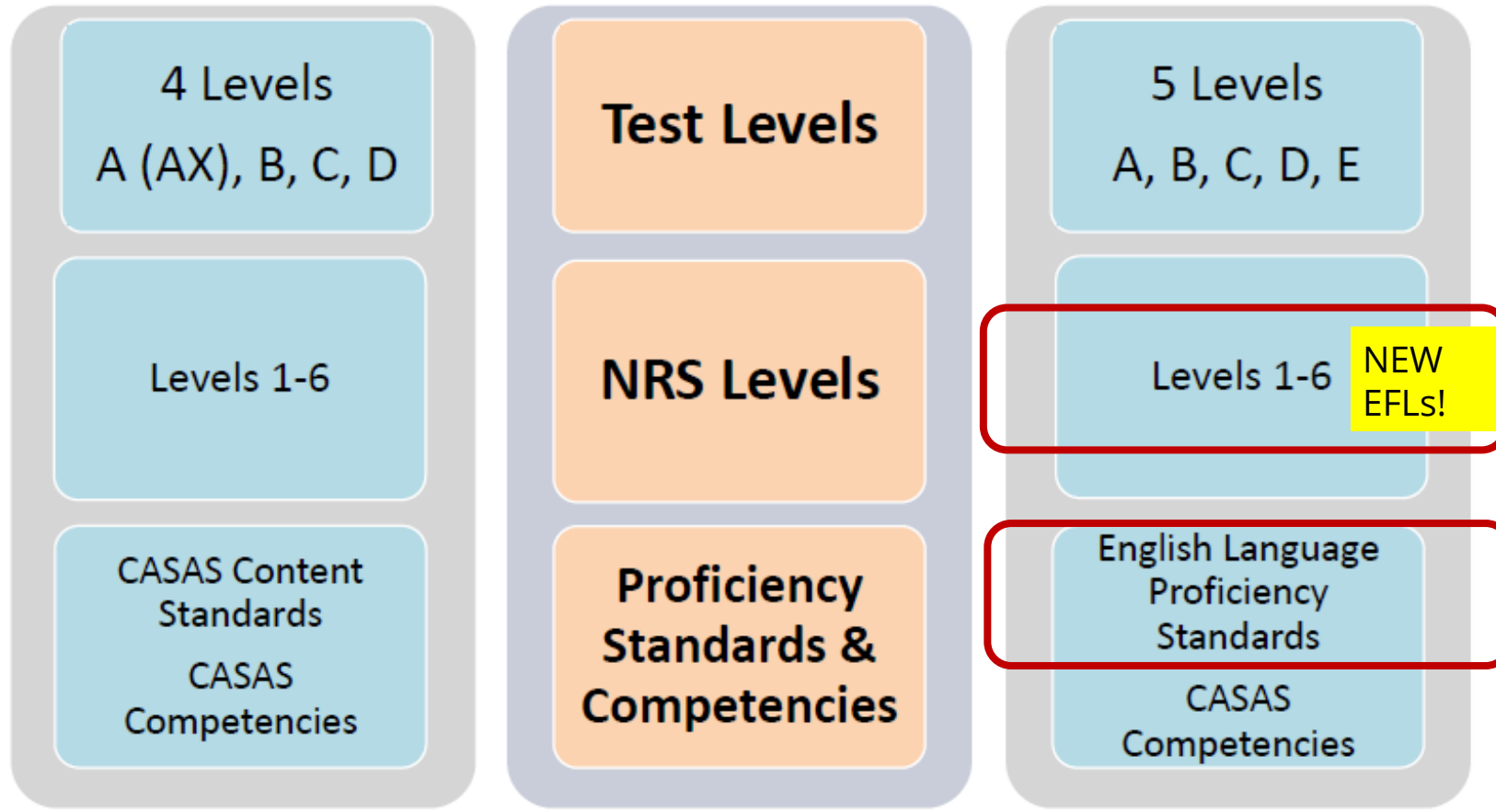


Life and Work

Life and Work Reading



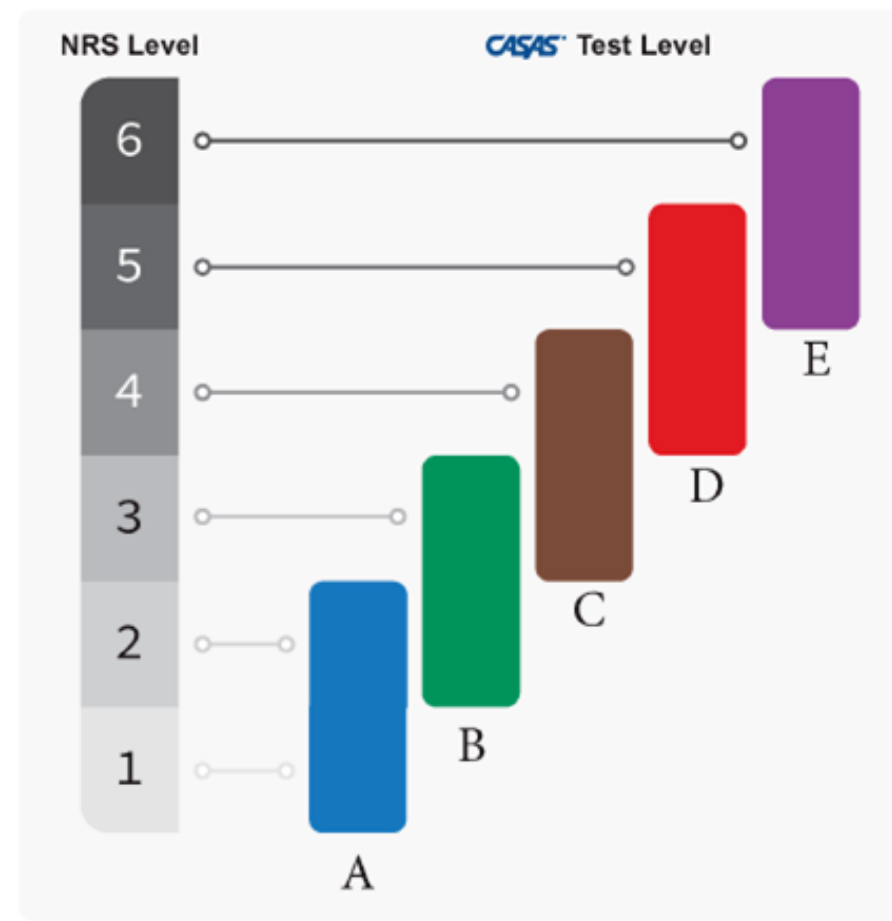
Reading STEPS



NRS Level Breakdown

NRS EFL	ESL Level	Reading STEPS Scale Score Ranges
1	Beginning ESL Literacy	160 - 183
2	Low Beginning ESL	184 - 196
3	High Beginning ESL	197 - 206
4	Low Intermediate ESL	207 - 216
5	High Intermediate ESL	217 - 227
6	Advanced ESL (Completed Advanced ESL)	228 - 238 239+

Test Level Breakdown

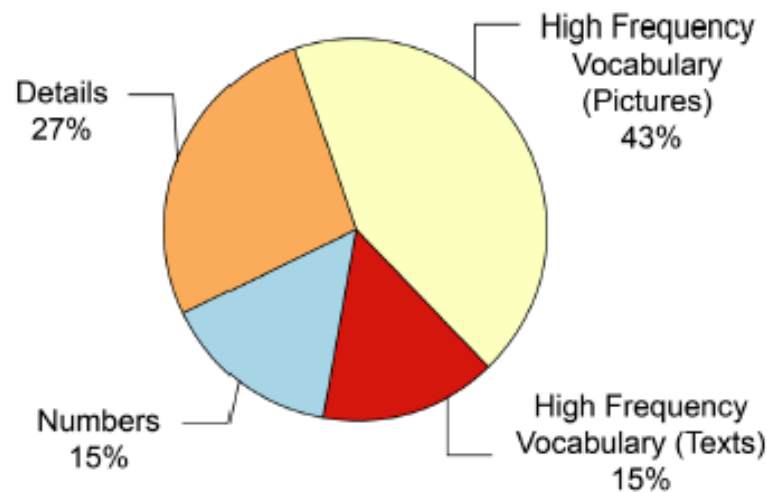




Test Form	Test Questions	Test Time (minutes)
Appraisal	28	30
Locator	14	15
Level A	33	30
Level B	36	50
Level C	36	75
Level D	36	75
Level E	36	75

Reading STEPS Content Standard Blueprint

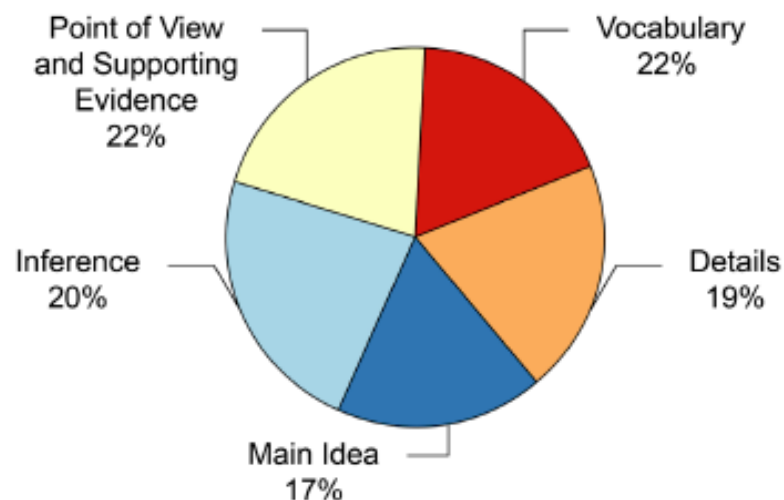
Level A



Content Areas	ELP Standard	% of test items
High-frequency Vocabulary (Pictures) Photos Symbols	8	43%
High-frequency Vocabulary (Texts) Words on forms Abbreviations	8	15%
Numbers Time Number words Money and prices Number formatting	8	15%
Details Retell key details	1	27%

Reading STEPS Content Standard Blueprint

Level E



Content Areas	ELP Standard	% of test items
Vocabulary Understand academic vocabulary Understand words with multiple meanings	8	22%
Details Retell key details Locate/Compare details	1	19%
Main Idea Identify the main topic Identify an author's purpose	1	17%
Inference Infer/Draw conclusions	1	20%
Point of View and Supporting Evidence Identify an author's point of view Identify supporting evidence	6	22%

NRS Level 1

Sample Items

Content Area	ELP Standard
High-frequency Vocabulary (Pictures) Photo items	8

- A. shirts
- B. shoes
- C. shorts
- D. socks



NRS Level 4

Sample Items

Content Area	ELP Standard
Vocabulary Understand academic vocabulary	8

The word provide means _____.

- A. learn
- B. give
- C. take
- D. read

Job Search

Job Title, Keywords

Location



Townsville



Search

1 Result

Position: Zoo Helper

234 Zoo Drive, Townsville PA

Posted: 2 days ago Salary: \$12.41 - \$27.84 per hour Part Time

The Zoo Helper will answer questions from zoo visitors and provide information about the animals. The Zoo Helper does not take care of the animals. During the summer, the Zoo Helper will teach at the children's summer camps.

Hours: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Apply Now!


NRS Level 6

Sample Items

Content Area	ELP Standard
Point of View and Supporting Evidence Identify an author's point of view	6

Which statement from the article *best* shows the author's main point?

- A. An arts curriculum is shown to increase cognitive development.
- B. A mind that learns to form new ideas is much better prepared to absorb them.
- C. With the increasing demands to boost test scores in other subjects, art is left out.
- D. When the arts are integrated with other subjects, they can enhance learning.



New Ideas in Education

Monthly Newsletter

The Arts and Academic Achievement

By Alejandro Garcia

As schools are challenged by budget cuts, the number of classes in the visual arts, music, and drama are often reduced. When there is so much pressure to increase test scores in subjects such as English, math and science, schools view the arts as a luxury. Although classes in other subjects are important, the view that art instruction isn't necessary is misinformed; research shows there is a direct correlation between the arts and academic achievement. An arts curriculum is shown to increase cognitive development. Professor Wilde of Wells University has done extensive research on the impact of arts curriculum on academic achievement. Professor Wilde states, "The arts can be like a window into other subjects that brings greater understanding and depth. A mind that learns to form new ideas is much better prepared to absorb them."

One obstacle that schools commonly cite as being the reason for reducing the number of art classes is lack of time in the school day. With the increasing demands to boost test scores in other subjects, the number of choices in the arts is often first to go. But time doesn't need to be an obstacle if art is directly linked to other subjects. In addition to existing classes, when the arts are integrated with other subjects, they can enhance learning. For example, music can be used to teach fractions in a math class, and a theatrical performance can be used to teach important events in history. The gains from involvement in the arts can lead to student success well beyond the benefits of self-expression.

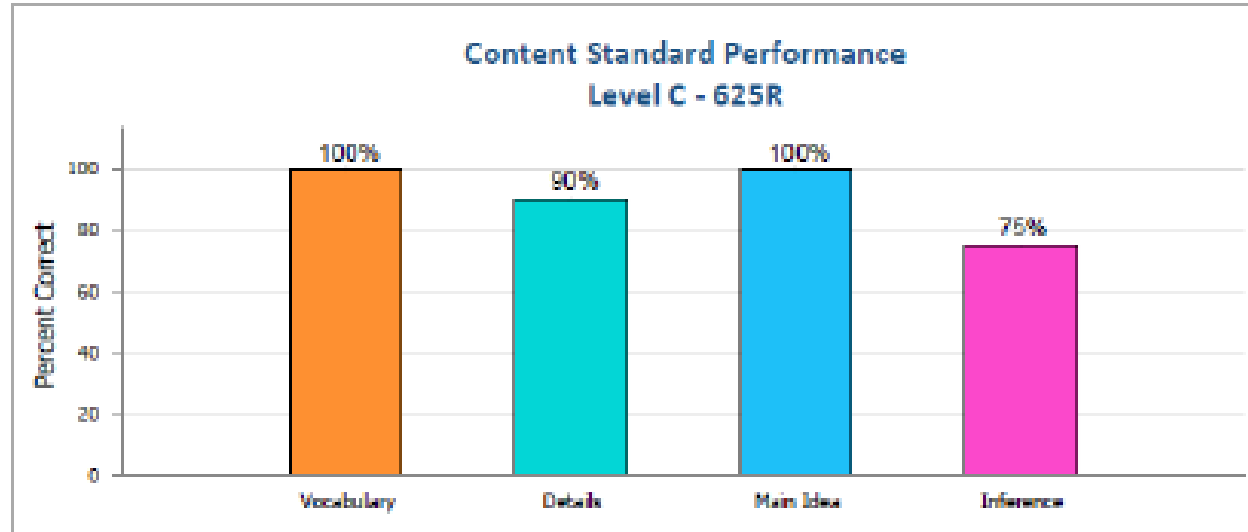
ST_{CASAS}PS Reports

Content Standard
Report

Competency
Report

Task Area
Report

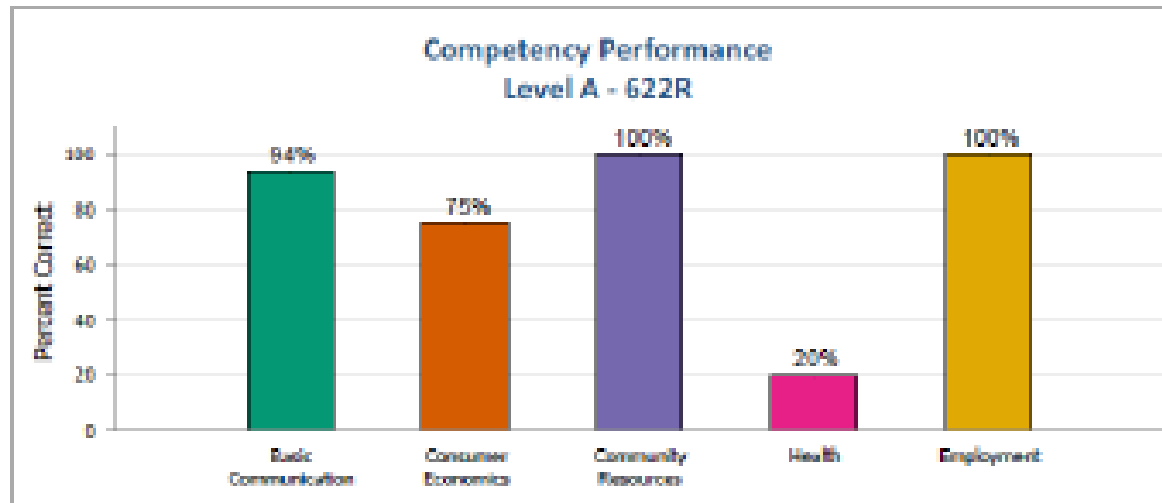
Agency:	1000 - Trinity County Office of Education	Form:	625R - Reading STEPS Level C
Site:		Level Scale:	CASAS STEPS Reading
Class:	N/A	Form Level:	C
Teacher:	N/A	Student:	Rios, Michael A 006012018



Content Areas	ELP Standard	N	% Correct
Vocabulary Understand high-frequency words Understand academic vocabulary	8	6	100%
Details Retell key details	1	21	90%
Main Idea Identify the main topic Identify an author's purpose	1	5	100%
Inference Infer/Draw conclusions	1	4	75%

Content Standard Report

Agency:	1000 - Trinity County Office of Education	Form:	622R - Reading STEPS Level A
Site:	8544 - California Heritage Youthbuild Academy	Level Scale:	CASAS STEPS Reading
Class:	N/A	Form Level:	A
Teacher:	N/A	Student:	Rios, Michael A 006012018

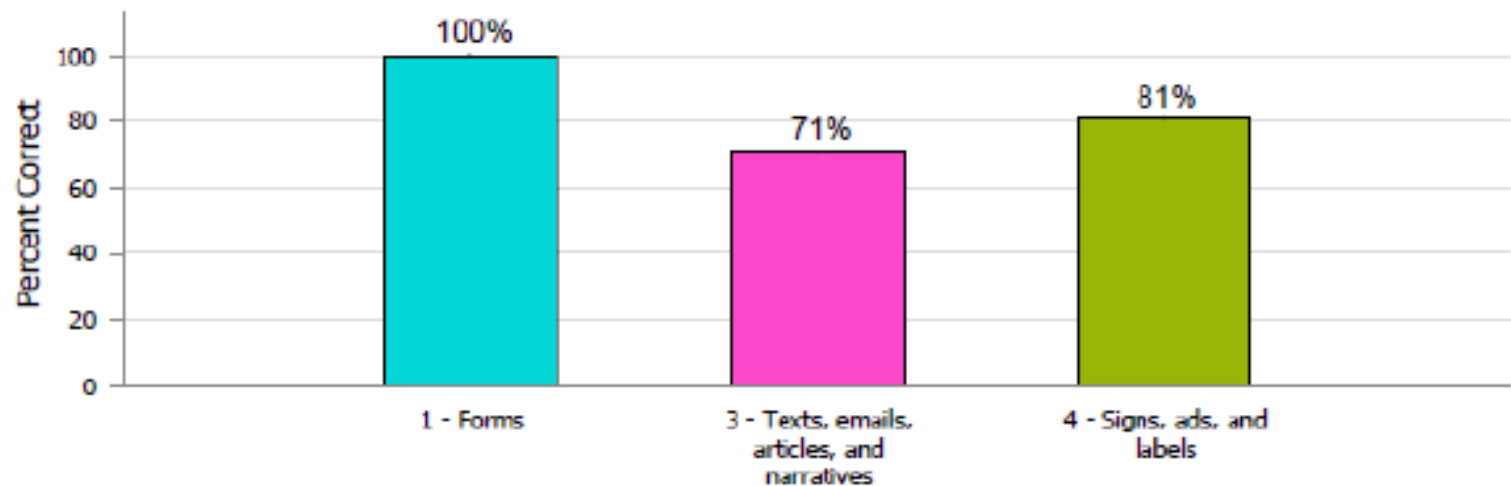


Competency Areas	N	% Correct
0. Basic Communication 0.1 Communicate in interpersonal interactions 0.2 Communicate regarding personal information	16	94%
1. Consumer Economics 1.1 Use weights, measures, measurement scales, and money 1.2 Apply principles of comparison shopping for goods & services	4	75%
2. Community Resources 2.2 Understand how to locate and use transportation 2.3 Understand concepts of time and weather	5	100%
3. Health 3.1 Understand how to access and utilize the health care system 3.2 Understand medical and dental forms and related information	5	20%
4. Employment 4.1 Understand basic principles of getting a job 4.8 Communicate effectively in the workplace	3	100%

Competency Report

From 2023 CASAS Summer Institute

**Task Area Performance
Level A - 622R**



Task Areas	N	% Correct
1 - Forms	5	100%
3 - Texts, emails, articles, and narratives	7	71%
4 - Signs, ads, and labels	21	81%

**Task Area
Report**

Sneak Peek: [CASAS Math GOALS 2](#)



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