Illinois Community College Board - Adult Education & Literacy
Approved ESL Assessment Comparison

	CASAS Life & Work Reading	BEST Plus 2.0	BEST Literacy
Publisher	CASAS www.casas.org	Center for Applied Linguistics https://www.cal.org/	Center for Applied Linguistics https://www.cal.org/
Format	Paper/pencil & Computer-based	Computer adaptive, test administrator operates the computer.	Paper/pencil, consumable test booklets
Training Information	General training information: Training requirements by role	General training information:	General training information:
Test Series Structure ● **Academic Levels** ● **Sets of Forms** ● **Test Items**	Reading · 5 levels (A, AX, B, C, D) · 2 sets of parallel forms per level for retesting · 24-38 items per test, depending on level	Listening & Speaking · One-on-one interview. · Test software generates questions, tester poses questions orally to student, tester enter rubric-based scores into computer following each response. · 6-25 items per test, depending on scores. Test software determines when the test is over.	Life Skills Reading & Writing · 3 sets of parallel forms for retesting

Content Areas with Federal NRS Approval	ESL - Approved for use through February 2024	ESL - Approved for use through February 2024	ESL - Approved for use through February 2024
Time Needed to Establish the Correct Test Level & Form	e-Test – 15 minutes (Locator) Paper Test – 25 minutes (Appraisal)	NA	
Maximum allowed Testing Times	One hour	Tests typically take 10-20 minutes.	One hour
Publisher Guidelines for Post-testing	Minimum of 40 hours of instruction Recommend 70-100 hours of instruction	Minimum of 60 hours of instruction Recommend 80-100 hours of instruction	Minimum of 60 hours of instruction Recommend 80-100 hours of instruction
Types of Test Items	Multiple choice	Oral interview	Multiple choice, fill in, short answer, short paragraph

Accommodations and Accessibility	Large-print, tactile graphics/braille supplements. Reader/Scribes provided with test form supplements including scripts for prompts, test questions, and answer options. CASAS eTests online system: Compatible with screen reading software, Text-to-speech alt-tags, Zoom, Calculator, Contrasting Colors, Select background color, Online Large Print, Reference information provided as needed by item CASAS eTests are also touch-screen compatible.	Use of hearing aids, use of magnifying glass to view images, use of glare reducing film on computer screen for viewing images, enlarging screen image for viewing.	Use of eyeglasses or magnifying glasses, earplugs, color overlays, or rulers. Testing environment accommodations might include frequent breaks or individual administrations.
Paper Test Scanning	Scanning option: Scantron OMR Scanner or Manual data entry into TOPSpro Enterprise software	NA Scores for each item are entered into the computer. Software produces final score.	NA Consumable test booklets are hand-scored.
Online Interface	All online and paper/pencil student assessment results can be collected in TOPSpro Enterprise. TOPSpro Enterprise produces a variety of student and class reports to drive instruction.	Test software stores score information and produces a general report.	NA
Ordering / Pricing	Ordering and pricing information can be found HERE	Ordering and pricing information can be found HERE	Ordering and pricing information can be found HERE

Virtually Proctoring / Testing	Remote proctoring of the e-Test is conducted via a web conferencing platform. Three approaches have been approved by ICCB: · Approach #1: 1:1 Remote Control · Approach #2: 1:1 or Multiple Test Takers (up to 5) on Windows 10 PC · Approach #3: 1:1 or Multiple Test Takers (up to 5) on Chromebooks or iPads Test examiners must be trained, experienced CASAS eTest Proctors and must also complete the ICCB-required iLearn course *Remote Proctor Training for CASAS*. Click HERE for more information on remote proctor training for CASAS GOALS.	Virtual administration of the BEST Plus 2.0 is conducted via a web conferencing platform. Tester uses 1 or 2 devices, one of which must be a computer. Student may use any device with an internet connection, camera and microphone. Test administrators must be trained, experienced BEST Plus testers and must follow the virtual testing guidelines.	Cannot be given virtually.
Illinois Assessment Hub	The purpose of the Assessment Hub is to support programs with remote test capacity and test scheduling needs of students. Programs may refer eligible ESL students to the Assessment Hub for post-testing in CASAS Life and Work Reading. Click HERE for more information about the Assessment Hub and eligibility requirements.		