

# Remote Testing in Illinois

## What's Working & Promising Practices

*December 8, 2020*



# Agenda & Instructions

- ❑ The “Why” of this Webinar
- ❑ Assessment Data in Illinois for FY21
- ❑ Program Spotlight - Triton College and Illinois Central College
- ❑ Promising Practices to Address Common Challenges

*Please use the Q&A box to submit questions to presenters and guest speakers. Questions will be answered in the Q&A box or live during the webinar.*

Our state faces a big challenge in terms of assessment.  
In October 2020, DAISI data indicated over 21,000  
students lacking an NRS assessment.



01

Let's look at FY21 data

# CASAS Remote Tests Proctored in Illinois

1,783

# TABE 11&12 Remote Tests Proctored in Illinois

1,118

4,849

CASAS In-Person Paper  
Tests Proctored

3,591

CASAS In-Person  
e-Tests Proctored

1,712

TABE 11&12 In-Person  
Paper Tests Proctored

2,381

TABE 11&12 In-Person  
Computer-Based Tests  
Proctored



# What about the Percentages?

**17%**

of CASAS tests in  
Illinois have been  
remote

**21%**

of TABE tests in  
Illinois have been  
remote

02

# What's Working with In-Person Testing?



- ❑ Use of large spaces with social distancing to test students (gyms, parking lots, large common areas, etc.)
- ❑ Off-site locations
- ❑ Success with alternate plans for testing
- ❑ Success with specific testing days or hours (not open, walk-in times)

▫ What is working with in-person testing?

03

# What's Working with Remote Testing?



**Triton College**

# Program Spotlight #1

## Triton College

~Corinne Benedetto & Sarah Gaziano~

800+ students

\*TABE 11&12

\*CASAS Life & Work

River Grove, IL

- ❑ Use of pre-testing appointments
- ❑ Communicating with Textedly
- ❑ Testing ESL students
- ❑ Post-testing procedures

# Program Spotlight #2

## Illinois Central College ~Dawn Fentem & Teresa Osterloo~

- ❑ All-hands-on-deck approach
- ❑ Test tracking tools
- ❑ Expectations for students



400+ students  
\*CASAS GOALS  
\*CASAS Life & Work  
\*BEST Plus  
East Peoria, IL

03

## Technology Barriers - Students & Proctors

# Promising Practices for Technology Issues

Schedule a **separate appointment before actual test session** to prepare device and address technology issues

Use all available tools, even if it means a slight change in your current process

- Institutional IT department
- CASAS demo videos
- DRC Device Check

Approach remote testing as another opportunity to **help students become digitally literate**



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Skills Center programs prepare students for the HSE (high school equivalency) tests and help students develop their skills in basic reading, math and job readiness. For more information, call (618) 437-5321 or toll-free at (800) 369-5321, Ext. 1241 / 1244 / 1220, or email [adult\\_ed@rlc.edu](mailto:adult_ed@rlc.edu).



RLC Skills Center Brochure

### Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)

All students enrolling in a Skills Center class must take the Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE) in reading and math. The TABE results give an indication of a student's grade level equivalency (GLE). The TABE also provides a detailed report about the skills each student needs to improve. Using this report instructors can develop a learning plan that will move students through classes as quickly as possible.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN YOUR TEST SESSION](#)



TABE Instructions for Locator Testing



TABE Instructions for Remote Testing

# Prairie State College - Device Survey and Tutorials

1. Sent a survey to all students who filled out application
2. Created and sent students separate emails with instructions for device they use (Windows, Mac, iPad)
3. Students were sent a link to a short video tutorial
4. If students did not have a device, they were sent information on the institution's device lending program.

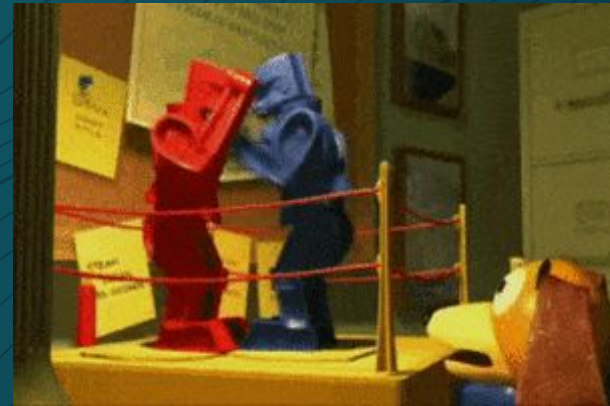
# Chromebooks and Remote CASAS Testing

Why don't Chromebooks always work with remote CASAS testing?

Ever feel like this with Chromebooks and remote testing?



If a program is issuing Chromebooks for CASAS testing use, it is wise to set up the Chromebook BEFORE they are distributed to students.



via [GIPHY](#)

# Be Strategic!

Focus FIRST on remote testing for groups of students likely to be more successful with the technology components.

As you have students waiting for classes to begin, connect with them by sending them technology “bytes” to practice their digital literacy skills.

- ❑ How to navigate a web page
- ❑ How to create a safe password
- ❑ How to send emails, read email attachments, etc.
- ❑ How to use Zoom

04

## Testing Capacity - Increasing the Number of Proctors

- ❑ Who on staff can serve as a proctor?

Teachers? Administrative support? Testing Center Staff? Counselors? Volunteers?

- ❑ Consider hiring test proctors
- ❑ Remote Proctor List through PDN / ICCB

▫ Testing Capacity



# Remote Test Proctor Training Requirements

- Each test has specific proctor training requirements that must be met before proctors can conduct remote testing.
  - *Remote proctor training for TABE and CASAS is located in iLearn under the ASSESSMENT category.*
- Ensure that all staff and teachers in your program who are administering remote tests are qualified and trained, as required.

# Elgin designated 2 groups of proctors

Post-testing proctors can schedule shorter test appointments (no Appraisal or Locator, fewer tech troubleshooting needs since students have done this before)

Pre-testing proctors schedule longer appointment times, and often schedule 1:1 with low tech testers

05

# Language Barriers



#1 Strategy to test students with  
language barriers:

**Provide a bilingual proctor or an  
interpreter for test set-up.**

## Trying to find a bilingual proctor?

Check with staff and faculty

Check with volunteers / tutors at the institution/program

Use student workers from the institution

Check with local non-profits for bilingual volunteers

OR

Schedule an interpreter to attend the device registration and tech set up part of the session to assist the proctor.

Howard Area CC has been using other students for native language help during initial test set up and instructions.







# Love Serve Witness

Welcome to Pui Tak Center 歡迎來到培德中心

Pui Tak Center is a church-based community center. Our programs focus on serving the 30,000 Chinese living in the Greater Chinatown community which includes Armour Square (Chinatown), Bridgeport, McKinley Park, Brighton Park, Canaryville, and South Loop communities.

Pui Tak Center has three program departments: Adult Education and Training, Children and Youth, and Community. Through these programs, we impact the lives of over 2,500 people each year. We help people improve their English, get better jobs, become citizens, catch up and excel in school, prepare for college, receive help with daily problems, deal with immigration issues, and adjust to life in the US. We partner with the Chinese Christian Union Church so that many hear the Gospel that gives hope and meaning.

培德中心是一所以教會為基礎的社區中心。我們提供的項目專門服侍大華埠社區的三萬多名華僑。

培德中心有三個主要部門，包括：成人教育和培訓、兒童和青少年事工，以及社區事工。透過這些項目，每年有超過2500人的生活受惠。我們幫助移民提高英語水平、找更好的工作、成為美國公民、在學校取得優越成績、為上大學做準備、在日常問題上獲得幫助、處理移民問題，以及適應美國的生活。我們與華人基督教聯合會合作，使許多人聽到帶給生命更新與變化的福音。



06

# Student Attendance at Test Appointments



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Initial Contact Date	Contact Person Initials	Referred to Pathway Advocate	First Name	Last Name	Address	City	ST	Zip	Phone	Email
2	12/1/2020	gr									
3	12/3/2020	jgr	n/a			contacted about testing				Chosen for a Cohort	
4	12/7/2020	gr	Kelly Meyer			scheduled for interview				* by last name means retest	
5	12/7/2020	gr	Kelly Meyer			means tested				sent email about testing	
6	12/7/2020	gr	Kelly Meyer			means not interested or cannot contact					
7	12/7/2020	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q			
8		Email	Can We Text	Internet Access Home/Cell	Site Pref	Time i.e. am, aft, eve	Age	Notes			
9			yes	home	LC	am	18	New student; will meet with PA Belinda for Wed/ 12/2 @ 11:15 am; gr 12/1/2020			
10			yes	home	LC	eve	18	New student; will send me his Proof of Constitution; Okay to serve him since we			
			yes	home	LC	am	17	SWIC first and he was no interested; Test set 12/9/2020 @ 5:30pm; gr 12/3/20			
			yes	home	LC	am	16	Wants to obtain GED; will PDF drop letter from Jerseyville HS; set up PA appointment with Kelly Meyer on Friday 12/11/2020 @ 2:30pm; gr 12/7/2020			
			yes	home	LC	am	16	will need a drop letter HS should email Gina a drop letter; Transgender student struggling at WR HS and wants to do online as well as			
			yes	home	LC	am	37	Meeting with PA Kelly Meyer this Friday 12/11/2020 @ 3:15 pm; gr 12/7/2020			
			yes	home	LC	am	30	Not sure of computer situation; However, sister from CA ; called to set this up for			
								December 8, 2020 @ 2:15 pm; gr 12/7/2020			



# Student Attendance Incentives

- ❑ In-person testing with instructor and classmates, socially distanced – Centro Romero
- ❑ Offer technology rental as incentive for in-person or remote testing.



# Getting staff buy-in



Teamwork is essential for success with remote testing, but an All Hands On Deck approach may not be sustainable moving forward.

How is your team expanding and changing to adapt?

# Messaging to students

Photo by [Mark Adriane](#) on [Unsplash](#)



GOOD  
VIBES  
ONLY



# Patience and Persistence

KEEP  
CALM  
~~AND~~  
TEST  
ON



# CASAS Support Contact Information

[eTests Online Help Documents](#)

Technical Support

[techsupport@casas.org](mailto:techsupport@casas.org)

CASAS Remote Testing

[remotetesting@casas.org](mailto:remotetesting@casas.org)

Live Technical Support

800-255-1036, option 2



# DRC Support Contact Information

Call the TABE Test Help Desk

1.866.282.2250

Email the TABE Test Help Desk

[TABEHelpdesk@datarecognitioncorp.com](mailto:TABEHelpdesk@datarecognitioncorp.com)



# BEST Plus Contact Information

Laurie Martin ~ ALRC  
[lmartin@cntrmail.org](mailto:lmartin@cntrmail.org)

CAL (Center for Applied Linguistics) -  
Publisher of BEST Plus

[aea@cal.org](mailto:aea@cal.org)  
1-866-845-2378

# Need more information from other programs?

Illinois Central College - [Dawn Fentem](#) & [Teresa Osterloo](#)

Triton College - [Corinne Benedetto](#) & [Sarah Gaziano](#)

Morton College - [Claudia Mosqueda](#)

Rend Lake College - [Christina Hutcheson](#)

Prairie State College - [Kim Kunce](#)

Elgin Community College - [Mary Lloyd](#)

Pui Tak Center - [Walt Schoenfuhs](#)

Howard Area Community Center - [Jessica Wheatley](#)

Centro Romero - [Susanna Johnson](#)

Lewis & Clark Community College - [Jeff Campbell](#)

# Communication Tools Suggested by the Field

## **EZ Text**

Pre-paid mass text message and notification system. Paid versions only

## **Sign Up Genius**

Online sign up tool & group messaging. Free version available

## **SimplyBook**

Mobile-optimized booking website, can integrate with Facebook, Instagram, & Google. Free version available



# Thank you for attending!



[excellenceinadulthood.com/resources/](https://excellenceinadulthood.com/resources/)

iladedpdn@gmail.com

