

BEDA, ESL, I-BEST DEFINITIONS & RESOURCES

	DEFINITION	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	RESOURCE NAME	DETAIL RELATED TO CASAS ASSESSMENT
<b>Ability to Benefit Testing</b>	US Dept. of Education approved exams and passing scores that match Educational Functioning Levels (EFLs) to determine federal financial aid eligibility.	ABILITY TO BENEFIT EXAMS: <u>ACCUPLACER</u> (College Board); <u>CELSAS</u> (Combined English Language Skills Assessment- ACCT) <i>ATB additional test required for students whose native language is not English and whose education requires an English as a Second Language component.</i> <u>WONDERLIC BASIC SKILLS: Verbal VS 1 &amp; VS 2 Quantitative</u> (Wonderlic Inc.,). <i>There are 4 Wonderlic Basic Skills tests: online, paper &amp; pencil and Spanish versions.</i>	1. <a href="#">Ability to Benefit</a> - SBCTC State Board for Community and Technical Colleges See Resources at bottom of page for approved Ability to Benefit tests.  2. <a href="#">Approved Ability to Benefit tests</a> US Dept. of Education Financial Aid Office.	
<b>Assessment for Basic Education for Adults (BEa)</b>	Assessment in education is defined as gathering data to understand the strengths and weakness of student learning. Assessments are used to address Adult Basic Education and Limited English Proficiency student need.  Assessments focus on literacy and many are specific to high school grade level equivalency.  Washington community colleges use CASAS test. ( <i>Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System</i> ) Standards are the same at all public community colleges.	Some but not all assessment tests correlate performance measures on General Education Development (GED®) test for high school equivalency.  Other approved assessment to determine BEa eligibility may be used in other states or venues. The following is not an exhaustive list:  <u>ABLE-</u> Adult Basic Learning Examination, <u>CASAS</u> – Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System Comprehensive Adult <u>WRAT-4</u> – Wide Range Achievement Test, <u>TABE</u> – Test of Adult Basic Education.	1. <a href="#">CASAS Assessment - SBCTC</a> State Board for Community and Technical Colleges  2. <a href="#">Resources for ABE – SBCTC</a> State Board for Community and Technical Colleges This page includes Provider list of adult basic education programs by location by colleges and organizations throughout Washington state as well as other BEa information.  3. <a href="#">Article – NCSALL</a> National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy website. <i>NCSALL Assessment of Literacy Education in Adult Basic Education, Volume 3 Chapter 4, Jon Kruidenier, 2005.</i>	
<b>Basic Education for Adults (BEa)</b>  <b>College &amp; Community Readiness Standard (CCRS)</b>	BEa classes teach foundational skills in reading, writing, math, technology and English language - so adults can move through college and into high-demand jobs. Another term used is Adult Basic Education. (ABE)  Basic education classes are designed for adults with academic skills below high school levels (often below 9th grade level). Some tests are specific to assessing students who need to improve their English language skills to reach post-secondary education readiness.  Washington State uses College & Community Readiness standards for grade level equivalency.	Cost for all classes is \$25 per quarter at all community colleges. Waiver is available for students who cannot pay.  Skill level requirements for admittance to community college programs are the same as general admission, except for I-BEST programs, which integrate foundational skills into post-secondary certificate programs.  College & Community Readiness Standards for Adult Education can be found in Washington State Adult Education 5 year Plan, 2014 - 2019.	1. <a href="#">BEa information</a> - SBCTC State Board for Community and Technical Colleges  2. <a href="#">Community College Provider Table</a> - SBCTC State Board for Community and Technical Colleges Direct link to Provider list of adult basic education programs offered by colleges and organizations throughout Washington state  3. <a href="#">WA State Adult Education 5 year plan</a> – SBCTC State Board for Community and Technical Colleges  4. <a href="#">College and Career Readiness Standards</a> -SBCTC State Board for Community and Technical Colleges	<b>College &amp; Community Readiness Standards for Adult Education (CCRS)</b>  Washington College & Community Readiness Standards for Adult Education define grade level equivalencies as used in Washington Adult Education. CCRS grade equivalency is defined by standards below and used in interpreting CASAS scores.  Standards are bundled into five grade-level groupings: A (K–1), B (2–3), C (4–5), D (6–8), and E (9–12), to more closely reflect Educational Functioning Levels.
<b>CASAS Assessment</b>	All students entering Basic Education for Adult classes take the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) so they can be placed in the right level of classes.  There are 2 CASAS exams in use: one for adult basic education (BEa) and another for English as a Second Language (ESL) adult basic education.  CASAS tests are federally approved under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to meet Educational Functioning Levels. (EFLs) EFLs link to Washington CCRS by grade level equivalency.	CASAS exams are used at all Washington community colleges.  The information on these tests relate directly to everyday reading and math skills.  CASAS assessments are valid and reliable for both native and non-native speakers of English.  CASAS Table includes assessment in beginning to high intermediate levels for high school equivalency and ESL levels. See Detail column for CASAS test cut off scores, College & Community Readiness Standards and EFLs.	1. <a href="#">SBCTC Assessment policy for Adult Basic Education</a> <i>Washington State Basic Education for Adults, 5-year plan, July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018</i> State Board for Community and Technical Colleges  2. <a href="#">BEa assessment policy – SBCTC Table for CASAS test scores</a> , <i>From Washington State Basic Education for Adults, 5-year plan, July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018</i> ABE Literacy Table, page 11 of 19. State Board for Community and Technical Colleges SBCTC	<b>BEa CASAS scores = CCRS.</b> For Life, Work, & Reading test. 1) ABE 1: Begin ABE Literacy Reading only = ≤ 200; Level A (K–1) 2) ABE 2: Begin Basic Ed. = 201 - 210; Level B (2–3) 3) ABE 3: Low Intermediate Basic Ed. = 211 - 220; Level B (2–3) 4) ABE 4: High Intermediate Basic Ed. = 221 - 235; Level C (4–5) 5) ASE 1: Low Adult Secondary Ed. = 236 - 245; Level D (6–8) 6) ASE 2: High Adult Secondary Ed. = ≥ 246. Level E (9–12) <b>ESL CASAS scores = CCRS.</b> For Life, Work, Reading and Listening. 1) Begin ESL Literacy = ≤ 180; Level A (K–1) 2) Low Begin ESL = R 181-190 & L 181-189; Level A (K–1) 3) High Begin ESL = R 191-200& L 190-199; Level A (K–1) 4) Low Intermediate ESL. = R 201-210 & L 200-209; Level B (2–3) 5) High Intermediate ESL = R 211-220 & L 210-218; Level B (2–3) 6) Advanced ESL = > R 221-235 & L 219-227; Level C (4–5)

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<b>Educational Functioning Levels (EFLs)</b>	<p>US Dept. of Labor, Employment and Training Administration: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education: levels of adult basic education and literacy use Educational Functioning Levels (EFLs) to define adult students' learning levels and grade equivalency</p> <p>EFLs levels are linked to Washington states' College and Community Readiness Levels' grade level equivalencies and CASAS test scores.</p> <p>The National Reporting System (NRS) is the system used by federal (WIOA) funded adult basic education for determination of EFLs. The Division of Adult Education and Literacy in the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education at the U.S. Department of Education administers the NRS.</p> <p>NRS gives EFL Grade level Equivalency for WIOA recipients. Adults at 9<sup>th</sup> grade levels or above are not considered basic skills deficient.</p>	<p>See link and details for definition of Education Functioning Levels and grade level equivalency.</p>	<p>1. <a href="#">Educational Functioning Levels (EFLs)</a> <i>U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. See Training and Employment Guidance Letters, (TEGL) TEGL17-05c1a1 for EFL descriptors table.</i></p> <p>2. <a href="#">National Reporting System (NRS)</a> <i>NRS Division of Adult Education and Literacy in the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education at the U.S. Department of Education.</i> NRS for Adult Education shows EFL and Grade level equivalency.</p> <p>3. <a href="#">CASAS Scale Scores, NRS Educational Functioning Levels (EFLs), and Grade Levels</a> <i>Comprehensive Student Assessment System, CASAS - Educational Functioning Levels and NRS requirements, for WIOA, Title 1.</i> CASAS scores linking to EFL levels and Grade Level equivalencies in webpage Table format.</p>	<p><b>Educational Functioning Levels (EFLs) = Adult Basic Skills proficiency and grade levels for CASAS test scores.</b></p> <p><b>EFL for Adult Basic Education Literacy:</b> Reading, Math &amp; Writing</p> <p>1) Beginning Adult Basic Ed. = R, M &amp; W: ≤ 200. Grade 1. 2) Beginning Basic Ed. = R &amp; M: 201- 210. W: 201-225. Grade 2-3. 3) Low Intermediate Basic Ed. = R &amp; M: 211-220, W: 226-242. Grade 4-5. 4) High Intermediate Basic Ed. = R &amp; M: 221-235. W: 243-260. Grade 6, 7 &amp; 8. 5) Low Adult Secondary = R &amp; M: 236-245. W: 261-270. Grade 9-10. 6) High Adult Secondary Ed. =R &amp; M: ≥ 246. W: ≥ 271. Grade 11-12.</p> <p><b>EFLs for ESL literacy levels:</b> Reading, Listening &amp; Writing.</p> <p>1) Beginning ESL literacy = R &amp; L: ≤ 180. Grade 1. 2) Low Beginning ESL = R &amp; L: 181-190. W: 136-145. Grade 1. 3) High Beginning ESL = R &amp; L: 191 – 200. W: 146-200. Grade 1. 4) Low Intermediate ESL = R &amp; L: 201 -210. W: 201-225. Grade 2-3. 5) High Intermediate ESL = 211 – 220. W: 226-242. Grade 4-5. 6) Advanced ESL = R &amp; L: 221 - 235, W: 243-260. Grade 6, 7 &amp; 8. Exit Criteria: CASAS Reading and Listening ≥ 236. Grade 9 – 12.</p>
<p><b>English as a Second Language (ESL) and</b></p> <p><b>English Language Learners (ELL) assessment</b></p> <p><b>Limited English Proficiency (LEP)</b></p>	<p>English as a Second language classes, and testing of literacy levels, eligibility and cost are standard at all public community colleges in Washington state. CASAS exam is used at all Washington state community colleges.</p> <p>English Language Learners (ELL) and Limited English Proficiency are two terms common terms for students needing ESL classes.</p>	<p>Cost for all BEdA classes is \$25 per quarter at all community colleges. Waiver is available for students who cannot pay.</p> <p>CASAS test is used to determine ESL levels. See link and detail column for CASAS test cut off scores and EFLs for English Language Learners.</p>	<p>1. <a href="#">SBCTC - Adult Basic Education</a></p> <p>2. <a href="#">BEdA assessment policy – SBCTC Table for CASAS test scores</a>, For ESL literacy. <i>Washington State Basic Education for Adults, 5-year plan, July 1 2017-June 30, 2018. ABE Literacy Table, page 11 of 19. State Board for Community and Technical Colleges</i></p> <p>See Table for correlation of English as a Second Language (ESL) literacy levels to Educational Functioning Levels (EFLs) to CASAS scores.</p> <p>3. <a href="#">CASAS Scale Scores, NRS Educational Functioning Levels (EFLs), and Grade Levels</a> <i>Comprehensive Student Assessment System, NRS Educational Functioning Levels (EFLs) and Grade Levels. NRS requirements for WIOA, Title 1.</i></p>	

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<p><b>General Education Development (GED)</b></p>	<p>General Education Development (GED®) test for high school equivalency <i>American Council on Education (ACE)</i> is used in many venues for High School Equivalency (HSE.) GED preparation classes may be offered in addition to GED testing.</p> <p>The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges is the state administrator for <a href="#">HSE testing</a>. The Board authorizes agencies to administer the HSE Test to qualify persons for the Certificate of Educational Competence including determining eligibility for taking the HSE test and administering the test (see <a href="#">WAC 131-48</a>; <a href="#">WAC 131-48-060</a>; <a href="#">RCW 28B.50.912</a>; <a href="#">RCW 28B.50.536</a>).</p>	<p>GED® &amp; GED Testing Service® are registered trademarks of the American Council on Education ("ACE"). May not be used or reproduced without the express written permission of ACE or GED Testing Service. GED Testing Service LLC administers The GED® and GED Testing Service® brands are administered by GED Testing Service LLC under license from the American Council on Education. *****</p> <p>Many people who did not finish high school have the same knowledge and skills as those who did graduate. HSC testing and other pathways such as High School 21+ offer different opportunities for an adult to gain a HS equivalency or diploma.</p> <p><a href="#">SBCTC Policy Manual, Chapter 4</a></p>	<p>1. <a href="#">SBCTC - Policy Manual</a> State Board of Community and Technical Colleges SBCTC Policy Manual Chapter 4, 4.50 Basic Education For Adults, High School Equivalency testing.</p>	
<p><b>HS 21+ for adult learners</b> <b>Guided Pathways</b></p>	<p>Washington community college programs can help adult students earn a high school diploma while also earning college credits.</p> <p>High School 21+ is a competency-based high school diploma program for adult learners 21 and older who do not have a high school diploma or equivalency.</p> <p>Adults demonstrate competencies in reading, writing, math, contextualized science, history, government, occupational studies, &amp; digital literacy. This can be done through alternative means including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•high school and college transcript credits</li> <li>•work, life, military experience</li> <li>•prior learning portfolio</li> <li>•credit for testing</li> </ul> <p>Some community colleges use a Guided Pathways approach. Guided Pathways is a research-based approach to simplify choices for students with a goal of increasing student completion rates. State Board of Community and Technical Colleges encourages this approach at all community colleges.</p>	<p>High School 21+ may be one approach chosen by a student to earn a HS diploma.</p> <p>Some Washington community colleges offer other pathways include passing a HSE exam such as a GED before applying to community college, earning a HS diploma while completing an AA degree/or 2 yr. cert. or enrolling in an I-BEST program.</p>	<p>1. <a href="#">HS 21+ program</a> – SBCTC State Board for Community and Technical Colleges</p> <p>2. <a href="#">Guided Pathways</a> - SBCTC State Board for Community and Technical Colleges</p>	

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<b>I-BEST</b>	<p>Washington's Integrated Basic Education Skills Training (I-BEST) certificate programs incorporate Basic Education classes into post-secondary training. I-BEST is an instructional model designed to better support students to degree completion.</p> <p>To be approved by SBCTC, I-BEST offerings must contain college-level credits and demonstrate a pathway to an approved one-year certificate and beyond.</p> <p>See diagram below for comprehensive definition of I-BEST pathway.</p>	<p>I-BEST accepts students at an ESL level 3 or above. I-BEST is one pathway for adult basic Education (BEEdA.)</p> <p>I-BEST students pay full college tuition for the college-level coursework in the I-BEST program. If an I-BEST program requires adult basic education coursework, that course is free. (The student will not pay the standard \$25 fee for adult basic education classes.)</p> <p>Cost for I-BEST programs are regular tuition rates.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">I-BEST information</a> - SBCTC State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)</li> <li><a href="#">Four Key Strategies for Student Success in I-BEST</a> - SBCTC State Board for Community and Technical Colleges See Financial Aid link for I-BEST tuition information.</li> <li><a href="#">I-BEST program Information - SBCTC</a> State Board for Community and Technical College Search tool for I-Best Programs by community college location.</li> <li><a href="#">BEEdA assessment policy – SBCTC</a> From <i>Washington State Basic Education for Adults, 5-year plan</i>. Page 14. State Board for Community and Technical Colleges</li> </ol>	

Much appreciation to the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) for use of their excellent website as reference in this document.

[Washington State Adult Education State Plan 2014-19 with Revised WIOA Requirements for Transition State Plan 2015-2016](#)

6.1.15 Pg. 14. State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)

