# Test Benchmarks for NRS Educational Functioning Levels

Updated August 2019

**Adult Basic Education (ABE)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Functioning Level (EFL)</th>
<th>Test Benchmarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Beginning ABE Literacy** (ABE Level 1—all subjects) | TABE¹ (11–12) scale scores (grade level 0–1):  
Reading: 300–441  
Mathematics: 300–448  
Language: 300–457 |
| **Beginning Basic Education** (ABE Level 2—all subjects) | TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 2–3):  
Reading: 442–500  
Mathematics: 449–495  
Language: 458–510 |

¹ TABE = Tests of Adult Basic Education
### Educational Functioning Level (EFL) | Test Benchmarks
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Low Intermediate Basic Education (ABE Level 3—all subjects) | TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 4–5):  
Reading: 501–535  
Mathematics: 496–536  
Language: 511–546

High Intermediate Basic Education (ABE Level 4-ELA) | TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 6–8):  
Reading: 536–575  
Mathematics: 537–595  
Language: 547–583

Middle Intermediate Basic Education (ABE Level 4—Mathematics)\(^2\) |  

Low Adult Secondary Education (ABE Level 5-ELA) | TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 9–10):  
Reading: 576–616  
Language: 584–630  
Mathematics: 596–656

High Intermediate Basic Education (ABE Level 5-Mathematics) |  

High Adult Secondary Education (ABE Level 6-ELA) | TABE (11–12) scale scores (grade level 11–12):  
Reading: 617–800  
Language: 631–800  
Mathematics: 657–800

Adult Secondary Education (ABE Mathematics Level 6) |  

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\(^2\) For mathematics, there is an additional intermediate level, Middle Intermediate (level 4), in addition to High Intermediate (level 5), and only one secondary level (level 6), due to the complexity of the mathematics descriptors. When reporting on NRS tables, use the level number.
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<tr>
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| **Beginning ESL Literacy** (ESL Level 1—all subjects) | BEST\(^3\) Plus 2.0: 88–361  
BEST Literacy: 0–20 (SPL 0–1) |
| **Low Beginning ESL** (ESL Level 2—all subjects) | BEST Plus 2.0: 362–427  
BEST Literacy: 21–52 (SPL 2) |
| **High Beginning ESL** (ESL Level 3—all subjects) | BEST Plus 2.0: 428–452  
BEST Literacy: 53–63 (SPL 3) |
| **Low Intermediate ESL** (ESL Level 4—all subjects) | BEST Plus 2.0: 453–484  
BEST Literacy: 64–67 (SPL 4) |
| **High Intermediate ESL** (ESL Level 5—all subjects) | BEST Plus 2.0: 485–524  
BEST Literacy: 68–75 (SPL 5) |
| **Advanced ESL** (ESL Level 6—all subjects) | BEST Plus: 525–564 (exit 565 and higher)  
BEST Literacy\(^4\): 76–78 (SPL 6) |

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\(^3\) BEST = Basic English Skills Test  
\(^4\) Students can be placed into advanced ESL using Best Literacy but the test does not assess skills beyond this level so students cannot exit Advanced ESL with this test. Retesting of students who enter this level with another assessment is recommended.