

Verizon Life Span Literacy Matrix: Adult Literacy Measures

Test – Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS)

Authors - CASAS

Purpose

CASAS, is the most widely used system for assessing adult basic reading, math, listening, writing, and speaking skills within a functional context for both native and non-native speakers of English. CASAS provides learner-centered curriculum management, assessment and evaluation systems in education and training programs throughout the public and private sector.

Population – Adults functioning at or below a high school level in attaining the basic literacy skills to function effectively on the job, in the community, and in the family.

Time – Test times vary depending on the type and level of assessment

Description

CASAS has developed more than 180 standardized assessment instruments and can customize assessment to measure specific competencies. Instructors can use CASAS to place learners into programs, diagnose learners' instructional needs, monitor progress, and certify mastery of functional basic skills. A variety of instruments also can measure functional reading, math, listening, speaking and higher order thinking skills in everyday adult life and work contexts.

Benefits

CASAS helps meet the requirements of state and national initiatives and legislation that are influencing education, training and welfare systems such as: Workforce Investment Act (WIA), School-to-Work efforts, National Skills Standards Board Initiatives, Equipped for the Future (EFF) and the Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS).

CASAS Beginning Literacy Assessment Forms 27 and 28 assess literacy level reading skills and are appropriate for use with native and non-native English speakers. The POWER standardized performance assessment measures basic skills of adults with developmental disabilities.

Validity/Reliability

As part of the 1993 revalidation process by the U.S. Department of Education Program Effectiveness Panel, CASAS submitted data supporting its effectiveness for both learners and programs. The findings document that learners enrolled in adult and alternative education programs that have implemented key elements of the CASAS system demonstrate significant learning gains, demonstrate increased hours of participation, and achieve increased goal attainment.

All CASAS assessment instruments undergo rigorous test development and validation procedures and meet the standards of the American Education Research Association (AERA), the National Council for Measurement in Education (NCME) and the American Psychological Association (APA). The *CASAS Technical Manual* contains detailed information about test validity and reliability.

CASAS systems meet the requirements for the use of validated, standardized assessment in reporting learning outcomes for the National Reporting System (NRS), Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Title II, Section 225, of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (PL) 105-220.

Cost

For a complete description of the CASAS system, training information and pricing, go to: <https://www.casas.org/home/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.viewFile&MapID=1125>

Source

Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System
<http://www.casas.org>