How to Increase Reading Skills in the Virtual Classroom Incorporating the CASAS Reading Standards

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2021

YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE



A Brand-New World...

- Last year the adult education world migrated a majority of services to distance education and virtual classroom environments
- As we move forward and make decisions about maintaining some or all of these distance education services, we need to continue ensuring quality education

Agenda

- Provide information to assist adult ESOL teachers maximize classroom instruction
- Review CASAS Competencies and Reading Content Standards
- Identify CASAS Task Areas
- How to use TOPSpro Reports to Target Instruction

Models of Learning

Blended

In-class and online instruction as part of a collective whole

Hybrid

Both an online and in-class teaching, but the work students complete online may not be directly aligned to what happens in the classroom

Synchronous Learning

- Synchronous learning is the kind of learning that happens in real time.
- Learner and the instructor interact in a specific virtual place, through a specific online medium, at a specific time.
- Synchronous online learning include video conferencing, teleconferencing, live chatting, and live-streaming lectures.

<u>Source: https://thebestschools.org/magazine/synchronous-vs-asynchronous-education/</u>

Asynchronous Learning

- ☐ Asynchronous learning happens on the learners' schedule.
- ■Instructor or degree program will provide materials for reading, lectures for viewing, assignments for completing, and exams for evaluation.
- Learner has the ability to access and satisfy these requirements within a flexible time frame.
- Asynchronous online learning include self-guided lesson modules, streaming video content, virtual libraries, posted lecture notes, and exchanges across discussion boards or social media platforms.

<u>Source: https://thebestschools.org/magazine/synchronous-vs-asynchronous-education/</u>



Are you currently doing asynchronous or synchronous instruction?

Just a Thought...Why books?

➤ Do you think it is important for students to have a book in a virtual classroom?

Do your students have a book when they attend a virtual session?

RESEARCH

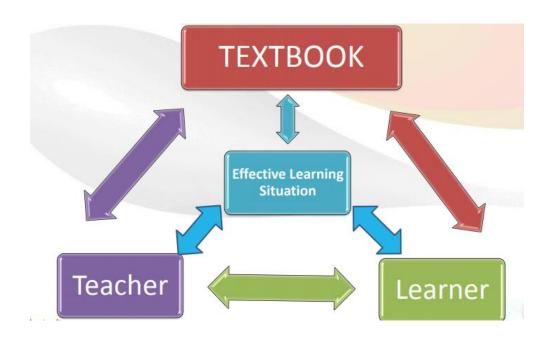
➤ Books can improve the student's ability to think, and they are able to find the solution to problems

➤ Reading **books** can build the understanding and awareness of **students** in different situation

> Books boost the confidence of students

Books develop analytical skills

EFFECTIVE USE OF TEXTBOOKS



DIGITAL READING

Is "digital reading" really the same as reading a print text?

> Do we use the same kinds of skills?

Do we comprehend the texts in the same way?

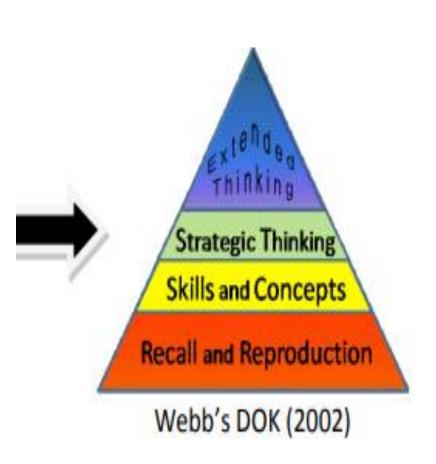
Sample Activity

Select two short texts, one print and one digital. Ask students to read both. Put the learners into small groups and give them the following sentence stems:



- Learners complete the sentences in as many different ways as possible, drawing on their experience of reading the texts used in the lesson and also their wider experience.
- Each group reports back its ideas.

Depth of Knowledge (DOK)



Recall and Reproduction

(recall a fact, information, or procedure)

Skill/Concept

(engages mental process using information or conceptual knowledge)

Strategic Thinking

(reasoning, higher level of thinking)

Extended Thinking

(investigation, planning, complex thinking)

Instructional Considerations When Practicing Reading Activities

- Reading activities require modeling and preparation, such as eliciting prior knowledge
- Vocabulary should be introduced in context and not in an isolated memory exercise
- Keep in mind to use Depth of Knowledge of higher thinking levels, such as understanding, applying, analyzing and evaluating
- Engage students in a mental process beyond habitual responses using information or conceptual knowledge, and complex reasoning

Summary

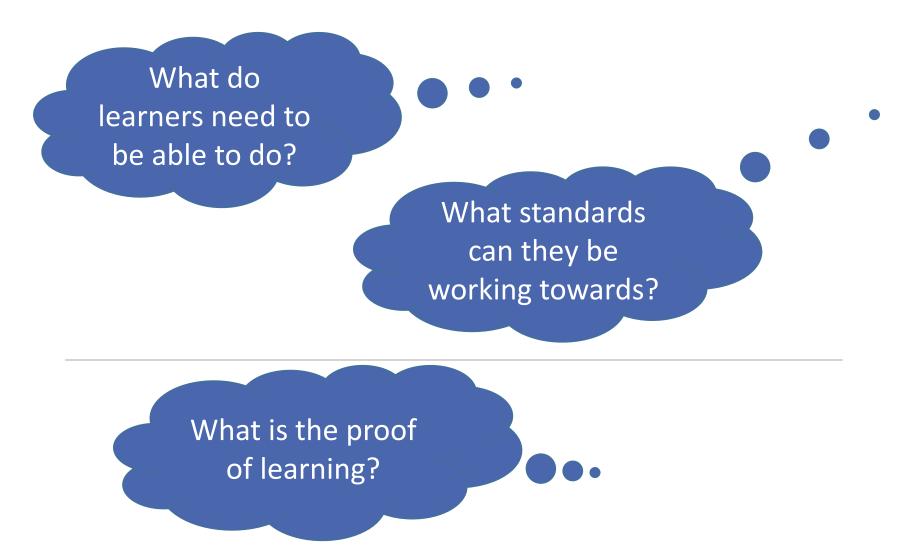
- Preview Reading Predicting
- Read to determine what text is saying
- Read again for information
- Read again for meaning

6 Scaffolds for Els in a Virtual Classroom

- Establish virtual classroom routines
- Increase wait time
- Employ Choral reading and skits
- Use technology to support learning
- Use visual learning support
- Paraphrase content before teaching academic lessons



Planning Lessons



Planning Lessons Identifying Types of Activities

- Quizzes
- Teacher questions
- Dictation (T-Ss, Peer2Peer)
- Peer assessment
- Rubrics
- Games (gamification)
- Group projects

- Graphic organizers
- Presentations
- Role plays
- Debates
- Interviews
- Exit tickets



Questions

What does CASAS stand for?

Do you use TopsPro reports to guide instruction?



What is your knowledge level of CASAS?

- Beginning
- Intermediate
- Advanced



Integrated System Approach



 Basic Skills Content Standards and CASAS Competencies



Reading, Listening, Math Assessments
 Paper or computer-based testing (eTests)



 QuickSearch Online – free resource to find instructional material titles



 TOPSpro Enterprise (TE) – data accountability software to score and track student test scores and generate reports

CASAS ESL Reading and Listening Scores by EFLs

CASAS LEVEL	NRS Levels	Reading and Listening ESL Educational Functioning Levels	Life and Work Reading Score Ranges	Life and Work Listening Score Ranges
Α	1	Beginning ESL Literacy	180 and below	180 and below
Α	2	Low Beginning ESL	181 - 190	181 – 189
Α	3	High Beginning ESL	191 – 200	190 – 199
В	4	Low Intermediate ESL	201 – 210	200 – 209
В	5	High Intermediate ESL	211 – 220	210 – 218
C	6	Advanced ESL	221 – 235	219 – 227
D		Exit Advanced ESL	236 and above	228 and above

https://www.casas.org/docs/default-source/pagecontents/casas-ell-level-descriptors.pdf?sfvrsn=16cad783 20?Status=Master

CASAS test items measure basic language and math skills in realistic, everyday life and workplace contexts.

Test items address:

- content standards
- competencies
- task areas



Task Areas

Competency

The functional life skills context in which the learning objective is being measured

https://www.casas.org/docs/pagecontents/competencies.pdf?Status=Master

CASAS Competency Categories

- 0. Basic Communication
- 1. Consumer Economics
- 2. Community Resources
- 3. Health
- 4. Employment
- 5. Government and Law
- 6. Math
- 7. Learning and Thinking Skills
- 8. Independent Living

How would you rate your familiarity with the CASAS Reading (Content) Standards?

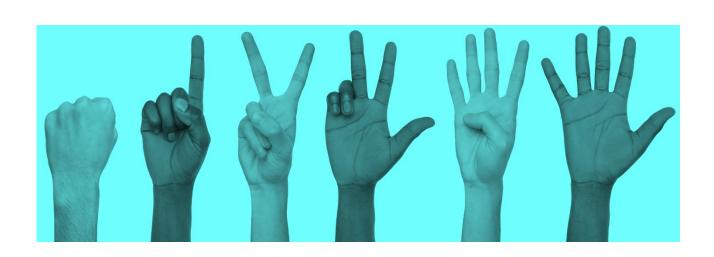
4 = Extremely familiar

3 = Somewhat familiar

2 = Have heard of it

1 = Not at all familiar





CASAS Reading Standards

CASAS Reading Standards-2016 Second Edition

https://www.casas.org/docs/default-source/research/casas-reading-standards-2016-second-edition.pdf?sfvrsn=36733d5a 2?Status=Master

CASAS Reading Standards

- Reading standards define the underlying basic skills
- Incorporates standards from the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS)
- There is generally one or two CCR anchor standards referenced for each CASAS reading standard
- There are 52 CASAS Reading standards in five categories

	Category	Number of Standards
RDG1	1 – Foundational Literacy	9
RDG2	2 – Language and Vocabulary	11
RDG3	3 – Reading Comprehension Skills	15
	 Literal Comprehension (DOK 1) 	
	 Informational and Literary Text 	
RDG4	4 – Higher Order Reading Skills (DOK 2 and higher)	11
	 Informational and Literary Text 	
550	5 – Higher Order Reading Skills (DOK 2 and higher)	6
RDG5	 Literary Text Only 	
	Total	52

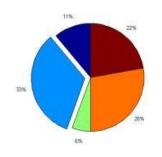
CASAS Reading Standards Example

RDG 2 Language and Vocabulary

	ABE/ASE NRS Level			1	2	3	4	5	6
ESL NRS Level			2	3	4	5	6		
	Content Standard CASAS								
CS#	Instructional Level	A	A	A	В	В	C	D	Е
RDG 2	Language and Vocabulary								
RDG	Interpret the conventions of standard English including			•	•	•	•	•	•
2.1	punctuation (e.g., periods, appropriate placement of commas,								
	quotation marks) and capitalization (e.g., at the beginning of a								
	sentence, proper nouns).								
	[L2. A, B, C, D, E]								Ш
RDG	Read and interpret high-frequency words, phrases, and		•	•	•				
2.2	abbreviations in everyday contexts (e.g., signs, ads, labels,								
	forms).								
	[L6. A, B] [R4. A]								
RDG	Interpret accurately a range of general academic (e.g.,				•	•	•	•	•
2.3	indicate, procedure, evidence), technical (e.g., phlebotomist),								
	and domain-specific words and phrases (e.g., endangered								
	species, peace treaty) in context, including collocations (e.g.,								
	count on, happen to).								
	[L6. B, C, D, E] [R4. B, C, D, E]								l

Task Areas

Format of the test item prompt





Tasks are how test items are presented. It's important that these tasks are practiced in the classroom.



CASAS TASK AREAS

READING TASKS

Task 1: Forms

Task 2: Charts, maps, consumer billings, matrices, graphs, or tables.

Task 3: Stories, articles, paragraphs, sentences, directions, or pictures.

Task 4: Signs, price tags, ads, or product labels

Task 5: Measurement scales, diagrams

LISTENING TASKS

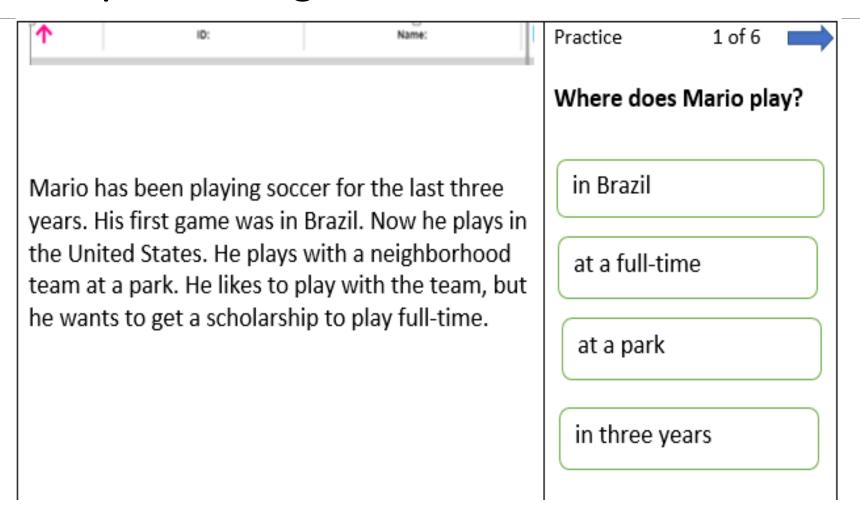
Task 1: Picture/Photo Prompt

Task 2: Comprehension Question

Task 3: Predict Next Line of Dialogue

Task 4: Identify True Statement Based on Prompt

Sample Reading Test Items





Monthly Membership Rates					
Resident Discount	Base Rate	Corporate Rate			
\$36.00	\$45.00	N/A			
\$45.00	\$56.00	\$50.00			
\$36.00	\$45.00	\$41.00			
\$99.00	\$124.00	\$112.00			
\$89.00	N/A	N/A			
	Resident Discount \$36.00 \$45.00 \$36.00 \$99.00	Resident Discount Base Rate \$36.00 \$45.00 \$56.00 \$36.00 \$99.00 \$124.00			

Practice

1 of 6



What is the base fee for an adult and the corporate fee for a family?

\$45 and \$112

\$56 and \$112

\$56 and \$124

\$45 and \$99

Star Tech

Employee Computer and Internet Policy

All StarTech employees have a computer Internet connection to use for company business. The company also has a <u>liberal</u> policy of giving employees up to 30 minutes of personal Internet use each day. However, communications on company computers belong to StarTech. The company can look at all messages and documents on its computers and other company technology.

CCR Standard: R4.B, C - Interpret words and phrases in a text

CASAS Content Standard: RDG 2.8 - Interpret multiple-meaning words

CASAS Competency: 4.2.4 - Interpret employee handbooks, personnel policies, and job manuals.

Reading Task Area: 3 - Text

ACTIVITY Padlet

https://padlet.com/vpb4170/5wmz14lezuvfplp7

Breakout Rooms

- ➤ Copy link posted in the Chat box
- ➤ Select a scriber (notes in the Padlet)
- ➤ Open CASAS Reading Standards
- ➤ Select 2/3 RDGs you would include using the sample passage
- Group 1= Level A
- Group 2= Level A (2)
- Group 3= Level B
- Group 4= Level C
- Notice that many content standards have Task Areas
- https://www.casas.org/docs/default-source/research/casas-reading-standards-2016-second-edition.pdf?sfvrsn=36733d5a 2?Status=Master



Engaged learners are better learners.

Key literacy skills cannot be taught with just any content. Engage students with thousands of texts on topics they care about most, with standards-aligned lesson supports built for ELA instruction.

Differentiate instruction easily with texts published at 5 reading levels

Get visibility into **usage and student performance** with built-in activities

https://newsela.com/about/solutions

Adult Low-Level Literacy Curriculum Modules

Log In and Access the Curriculum Modules Now!

Access the complete curriculum, or choose a module below.

Get and Hold the Job Planning a Trip to the

You Want Store

Making Safety a Sure Make Your Money

<u>Thing</u> <u>Count</u>

You Are What You Eat

Getting to Know Your

Doctor

Night on the Town Smart Shopping

<u>Choosing to Move</u> <u>Get the Help You Need</u>

 https://www.casas.org/product-overviews/curriculum-management-instruction/low-level-literacycurriculum-modules

QuickSearch

- Quick, easy access to database of more than 2,000 instructional materials
- Includes print, audio, video, and software materials

Correlated to CASAS Competencies and Content

Standards

Search by

- Title
- Competency
- Program, Level, and Skill
- Publisher
- CASAS Assessment



Contact us | Feedback

QuickSearch

A Database of Instructional Materials for Youth and Adult Educational and Training Programs

Welcome to **QuickSearch**Click one of the options
on the left to continue...

Instructional Reports

Types of Instructional Reports

Score Reports and Test History

- Personal Score Report
- Student Test Summary Report
- Learning Gains Report

Skill Reports

- Class Profile
- Content Standard Performance
- Competency Performance
- Individual Skills Profile



Personal Score Report

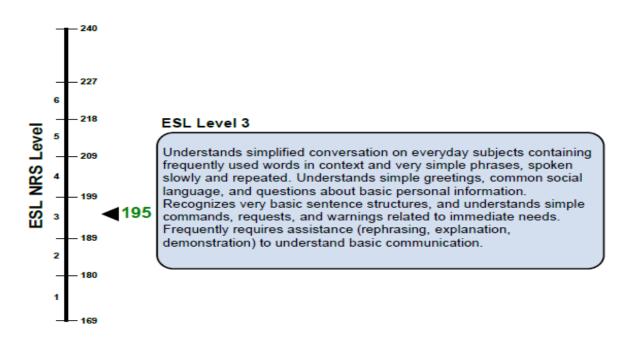
by Site

Page 6 of 99 PSR3

Aniley Alvarez - 576950

Agency:	12679 - Literacy Volunteers Of Collier County	Class:	N/A
Site	01 - Literacy Volunteers of Collier County	Teacher:	N/A

Modality	Test Form	Test Level	Test Date	Scale Score	NRS Level
Listening	981L	Α	12/02/2020	195	ESL Level 3



https://www.casas.org/docs/default-source/pagecontents/casas-ell-level-descriptors.pdf?sfvrsn=16cad783_20?Status=Master



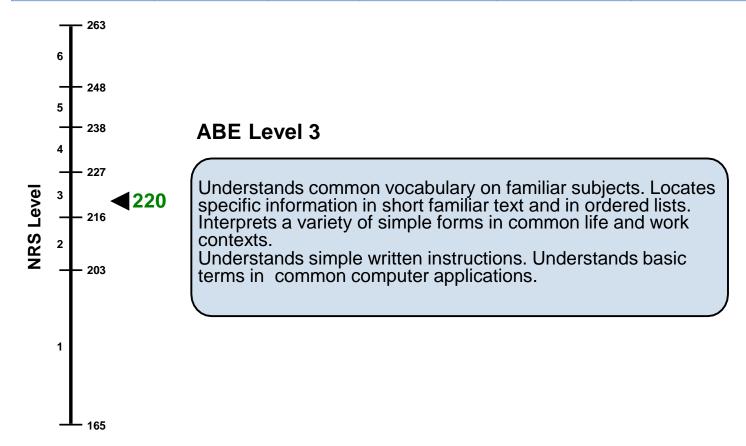
Personal Score Report Jennifer Lee

Page 1 of 1 PSR

Agency: 4908 – Rolling Hills Adult School **Class:** 220 - ABE

Site: (RHAS) 11 – RHAS: North City Teacher: N/A

Modality	Test Form	Test Level	Test Date	Scale Score	NRS Level
Reading	905R	С	05/05/2019	220	ABE Level 3





23:30:59

Student Performance

by Test & Content Standard

Page 1 of 1 SCSTC

Agency: 4908 – Rolling Hills Adult School (RHAS)

Form: 906R - Reading GOALS Level C

Site: Class: 11 – RHAS: North City

Student: Perez, Maria ID: 123456

Course: 61392 - Reading Skills 3

Test Date: 01/06/2019

Teacher: RS3BEE

Raw Score: 19 Scale Score: 220

CASAS Reading			
Standards	No. of		
(2016)	Items	Correct	Content Standard Description
RDG2.3	4	50%	Interpret accurately a range of general academic (e.g., indicate, procedure, evidence), technical e.g., phlebotomist), and domain-specific words and phrases (e.g., endangered species, peace treaty) in context.
RDG2.8	3	0%	Interpret unknown and multiple-meaning words as used in the text, choosing from level- appropriate strategies (e.g., sentence-level, paragraph or complete text context, known affix, root words).
RDG3.11	2	50%	Identify the main idea of a simple text or the central ideas or themes of a complex text.
RDG3.12	13	38%	Identify the key details and cite evidence from a text.
RDG3.14	3	100%	Identify the author's purpose including what the author wants to answer, explain or describe.
RDG4.3	2	100%	Determine what a text says implicitly (e.g., make inferences, draw conclusions) and cite textual evidence.
RDG4.4	7	43%	Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text, including time, cause/ effect, sequence (e.g., following multi-step directions).
RDG4.6	1	0%	Analyze how the author's purpose, point of view, opinion, register, tone and voice, including political or cultural perspective, shape the content and style of a text for its intended audience.

Class -- Content Standard Performance Summary



23:34:49

Class Performance

by Test & Content Standard

Page 13 of 32

SCSSTC4

Agency: 4908 – Rolling Hills Adult School (RHAS)

Site: Class: 11 – RHAS: North City

Course: 61392 - Reading Skills 3

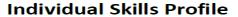
RS3BEE

Teacher: 521457 - Goldberg, C

Form: 906R - Reading GOALS Level C

Total Tests: 13 Total Students: 13

CASAS Reading Standards (2016)	No. of Items	Correct	Content Standard Description
RDG2.3	4	56%	Interpret accurately a range of general academic (e.g., indicate, procedure, evidence), technical e.g., phlebotomist), and domain-specific words and phrases (e.g., endangered species, peace treaty) in context, including collocations (e.g., count on, happen to).
RDG2.8	3	51%	Interpret unknown and multiple-meaning words as used in the text, choosing from level- appropriate strategies (e.g., context clues).
RDG3.11	2	65%	Identify the main idea of a simple text or the central ideas or themes of acomplex text.
RDG3.12	13	57%	Identify the key details and cite evidence from a text.
RDG3.14	3	59%	Identify the author's point or purpose including what the author wants to answer, explainor describe.
RDG4.3	2	58%	Determine what texts says explicitly by comparing details from multiple sources or parts of a text.
RDG4.4	7	52%	Determine what texts says implicitly (e.g., make inferences, draw conclusions) and cite textual evidence.





Page 6 of 44

Argemis Lluberes

ID# 576274 Program: ESL/ELL

			Scale	NRS	Form	Number of Items			
Most Recent	Form	Date	Score	Level	Level	Total	Correct	Attempted	
Listening	983L	07/15/2020	200	4	В	38	18	38	
Reading	185R	07/15/2020	215	5	С	38	14	38	

Reading Competencies	N	Correct
Consumer Economics	9	22 %
Community Resources	14	50 %
Health	6	66 %
Employment	20	35 %
Government and Law	6	0 %
Learning and Thinking Skills	1	100 %

CASAS Reading Content Standards (2009)	N	Correct
Vocabulary	21	28 %
General reading comprehension	30	33 %
Text in format	25	44 %
Reference materials	7	57 %
Reading strategies	12	16 %
Reading and thinking skills	4	75 %

Agency: 12679 - Literacy Volunteers..

Listening Competencies	N	Correct
Basic Communication	16	56 %
Consumer Economics	10	50 %
Community Resources	14	35 %
Health	9	44 %
Employment	12	50 %
Government and Law	1	0 %

CASAS Listening Content Standards (2009)	N	Correct
Phonology	17	47 %
Vocabulary	38	47 %
Grammar	37	48 %
General Discourse	34	47 %
Informational Discourse	13	46 %
Strategies and Critical Thinking	18	66 %

Reading Tasks	N	Correct
Forms	2	0 %
Charts, maps, consumer billings, matrices, graphs, tables	10	50 %
Articles, paragraphs, sentences, directions, manuals	21	28 %
Signs, price tags, advertisements, product labels	5	60 %

Listening Tasks	N	Correct
Comprehension question	11	36 %
Predict next line of dialogue	15	60 %
Identify true statement based on prompt	12	41 %



Individual Skills Profile Summary

01/06/2019 Page 4 of 4 23:22:13 by Site ISPS3

Agency: 24908 - Rolling Hills Adult School (RHAS) Form Level: C

Site: 11 – RHAS: North City High School Diploma Total Tests: 26 Total Students: 26

Program: ABE

			Mean	Mea	Mean Number of Items	
Most Recent	Students	Date Range	Score	Total	Correct	Attempted
Reading	26	07/13/2018 - 12/04/2018	225	40	24	40

Reading Competencies	N	Correct
Consumer Economics	134	62 %
Community Resources	30	73 %
Health	80	58 %
Employment	566	60 %
Government and Law	230	57 %

CASAS Reading Standards (2016)	N Correct		
Language and Vocabulary	182	54 %	
Reading Comprehension Skills	462	61%	
Higher Order Reading Skills	396	61 %	

Reading Tasks	N	Correct
Forms	178	57 %
Charts, maps, consumer billings, matrices, gra	598	59 %
Articles, paragraphs, sentences, directions, m	252	62 %
Signs, price tags, advertisements, product labe	12	75 %

TOPSpro Enterprise 3.0 build 54

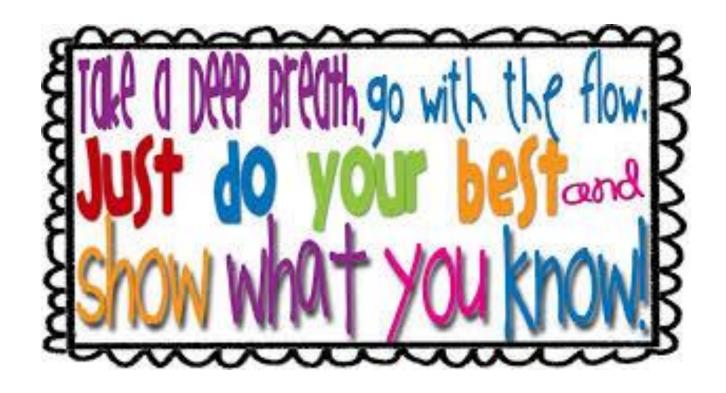
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Prepared by: Ima Educator

Test Taking Skills

- Give students practice taking a CASAS test, this will make future testing go more smoothly; and reduce student test-taking anxiety.
- It is recommended to explain to students to avoid guessing. Students should try to answer every question and choose the <u>one best answer</u>. A good strategy instead of guessing is to eliminate one or two answers that might not be correct, and then make an educated selection.

https://casasportal.org/eTests





CONTACT INFORMATION

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Links to review

Language magazine

https://www.languagemagazine.com/2020/04/02/the-digital-divide-leaves-millions-at-a-disadvantage-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic

LINCS

https://lincs.ed.gov/keywords/distance-education

IDEAL Distance Learning

https://edtech.worlded.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/08/IDEAL-Handbook-6th-Edition-8-16-18.pdf

Links to review

CASAS Low Literacy Modules

https://www.casas.org/product-overviews/curriculum-management-instruction/low-level-literacy-curriculum-modules

CASAS Skill Descriptors

https://www.casas.org/docs/default-source/pagecontents/casas-ell-level-descriptors.pdf?sfvrsn=16cad783 20?Status=Master

Approaches to Reading in the Classroom

https://www.cambridge.org/elt/blog/2018/01/10/reading-skills-dr-peter-watkins/?utm_source=wobl&utm_medium=blog&utm_content=woblactivity&utm_campaign=teacherdevelopment

Links to review

CASAS Competencies

https://www.casas.org/docs/pagecontents/competencies.pdf?Status=Master

CASAS Reading Content Standards (Second edition)

https://www.casas.org/docs/default-source/research/casas-reading-standards-2016-second-edition.pdf?sfvrsn=36733d5a 2?Status=Master

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