

TABE 11&12 FAQ

Transitioning to TABE 11&12

Q: What is your recommendation for which method of testing with TABE 11&12 is best - computer-based or paper-based? And if paper-based, do you recommend we hand-score or use a scanner?

A: Administering TABE 11&12 as a computer-based test would be our strong recommendation, if this is possible for programs. The benefits of administering the computer-based test include cost savings, increased security and validity, and limited need for storage of materials. If a program administers the TABE as paper-based testing, we strongly recommend using a scanner for grading. The benefits of scanning include increased reliability and validity, and the availability of online reporting, which offers programs useful data.

Q: If we plan to use the scanning method, should we still purchase an answer key in case there is an issue?

A: It would probably be a good idea to have a print copy of the answer key just in case. The answer key is free but does need to be requested from DRC.

Q: If a student has a 9/10 pre- and post-test by January 1, 2019, is it necessary to give them TABE 11/12 if they return in the spring?

A: If a student achieved a level gain on a TABE 9/10 post-test in the fall semester, then it is not necessary to re-test them with 11/12 when they return in spring semester. However, since it is possible to capture more than one NRS level gain per student per fiscal year, if you choose NOT to administer the 11/12 test in the spring, you will lose the opportunity to get additional level gains for that student.

If a student who pre-tested with TABE 9&10 did not post-test before December 31, 2018, then they cannot be post-tested with TABE 11&12. If that student continues in the spring semester (after January 1, 2019), then they would need to be pre-tested with 11&12 and they would have to earn 40 hours of attendance and be post-tested with 11&12.

Test Content

Q: Can teachers cover practice test items in class?

A: Yes! Teachers can cover sample test items available on the DRC website or by participating in the Online Tools Training. Teachers can also use the TABE blueprints to drive their standards based instruction.

Q: What is the difference between Part 1 and Part 2 of the subject tests on TABE 11&12?

A: Our understanding is there is no difference between Part 1 and Part 2 of the Reading subject test on TABE 11&12. They are technically one test, broken into 2 sections, to make it easier for programs to administer the test in sections (for time purposes) and to allow for breaks.

Both the Reading and Math subject tests are broken into Part 1 and Part 2, but students earn only one scale score for Reading and one scale score for Math. The test parts do NOT produce separate scores.

Part 1 of the TABE Math is the non-calculator portion. Part 2 of the TABE Math is the calculator use portion for Forms M, D, and A.

Test Administration

Q: Does the out-of-range score issue exist at the upper end? Can a student score too high on a subject test?

A: The TABE 11&12 Scoring Guides will show a + next to the scores that are considered above the targeted level for that subject test. However, these scores are assigned a scale score and are therefore valid and can be entered in DAISI.

Q: Can computer-based testing programs intervene between the Locator test and a subject test in order to analyze the Locator score and determine which level subject test is appropriate to administer?

A: Yes. Test administrators must select Locator instead of Auto-Locator in the Insight Platform when establishing a test session. This determination allows administrators to look at a student's Locator score and designate a subject level test, as opposed to the Auto-Locator selection, which automatically puts the student into a subject test.

Q: I understand there are field test questions on the TABE 11/12. Do we have to do anything special with these questions?

A: When administering the TABE 11/12 to students, you do not draw attention to the field test questions or alter the allowable times. The field test questions are there because DRC, the TABE publisher, will use the data generated from those questions as they shape future versions of the TABE.

Your test administrators need to be aware of these field test questions IF you are hand-scoring the test. Field test questions do not count toward the total number of points possible. The Answer Keys and the ScorEze sheets (on the inside when the pages are separated) contain instructions for which questions are field test questions and how to subtract those from the total number of points possible.

Q: Our program traditionally has administered both the Reading and Math subject tests at intake, but we are concerned that the extended allowable times will overtax our students. Do you have a recommendation to keep from burdening students with too much testing?

A: One suggestion is to administer the Locator Reading and the subject test for Reading during intake. If this is the score to be used for DAISI entry, then any other testing (such as the Math subject test) could be administered at a later date, such as during the first week of class. This is a programmatic decision, based on what works best for your students and staff.

Q: Is the word list optional?

A: Yes, it is suggested that you use the word list if you are unsure if a student could successfully complete the Locator test. The Word list helps a test administrator determine whether to give the student the Locator test or the TABE Form L (Literacy).

Q: Can we hand grade the locator and scan the TABE subtests?

A: Yes. Be sure to order the materials necessary if you plan to administer the test this way.

Q: What is considered a “conflict of interest” to administering the TABE test?

A: There are specific guidelines on Testing staff requirements on page 44 of the Test Administration Manual.

Q: Can student workers administer the TABE 11&12 if they are trained, or are there other qualifications needed?

A: Please refer to the following information from the Test Administration Manual page 44 for the qualifications of a test administrator.

“Examiners must have the following qualifications:

- *Prior experience in proctoring/administering tests is highly desirable.*
- *High school diploma or equivalent is required, with Bachelor’s degree or equivalent strongly preferred and required in some states.*
- *Teaching, counseling, and/or assessment background is strongly preferred.*
- *Strong communication and customer service skills are strongly preferred.*
- *Ability to lift up to 20 lbs on occasion is preferred.*
- *Examiners must not be involved in any related preparatory course.*
- *Examiners must not have a conflict of interest.*

Once hired, all Examiners must successfully complete TABE certification training and other training as required by each state. Trained Test Coordinators should additionally provide refresher training sessions to Examiners at least annually.”

Q: Where can I find the conversion chart for scale score to grade levels?

A: On TABEtest.com http://tabetest.com/PDFs/TABE_GradeRange.pdf

Q: How long does the Reading TABE test take to complete?

A: If a student used the entire allowable time for the TABE 11&12 Reading test it would take 2 hours (60 minutes for each portion). However, not all students will use the entire allowable time.

Q: If we are scanning TABE answer forms, are students required to fill out ALL the information on the first page of the answer book, such as race, public assistance status, etc.? I am trying to determine which data are required to enter for the scanned grading feature.

A: Programs using the scanning option have reported that certain items on page 1 of the answer document must be entered before tests are scanned. These required items include: first and last name, date of birth, and gender. If any of these items is left blank, you will be prompted to edit or add information before scoring can occur.

Q: What ID number will students need to put on the form?

A: Either their SS# (the last 4 digits of it) OR the generated ID that DAISI created for them if a SS# was not provided on the registration form. Either ID number is acceptable.

Q: If computer-based testing, do students need a physical calculator or is there one present on the computer screen?

A: If computer-based testing the calculator will be available for students to use on the computer screen for questions where a calculator is allowed.

Q: How do you test students with different levels of the test that have different allowable times?

A: One suggestion to help with the logistics of this would be to ask students to sit in a certain area of the room based on the level of test they have. This would allow you to monitor each section of the room more easily.

Q: Can we simply bypass the Locator and give the TABE Reading Level A test to all students, since the Level A test encompasses the material on all other tests?

A: This is INACCURATE. The TABE Level A test covers material at the highest NRS levels only. Students taking the Level A test are only assessed on material at the NRS 4, 5, & 6 levels. Not only is this material too difficult for some students, but students placed in an ABE class would not be studying the same material that their pre- and post-test is assessing. All students must take the Locator test first to determine the appropriate placement in a TABE 11&12 subject test.

Materials and Ordering

Q: How do we order TABE testing materials, including the ScorEze answer sheets and Test Administration Manual?

A: Order forms for all TABE testing material can be found at here:

https://www.iccb.org/adult_ed/?page_id=127

The ScorEze answer sheets appear on the order forms immediately after the scannable materials. Please see the second page of the Curriculum Publications Clearinghouse order form for paper-based materials, found on the ICCB website:

https://www.iccb.org/iccb/wp-content/pdfs/adulted/professionaldevelopment/tabe_11-12/TABE_11-12_Order_Form_Revised2_FILLABLE.pdf

Q: Is a calculator allowed on the TABE 11&12 Locator test and if so, what kind?

A: The Test Directions Booklet indicates that a scientific calculator is allowed on Part 2 of the Locator Math test.

Q: Is there a formula sheet for the Math portion of the TABE?

A: No. If a formula or conversion is required for the problem it will appear as part of the question.

Q: What kind of ruler is required for the TABE Math E test?

A: Inches and centimeter

Q: How should we dispose of our TABE 9&10 materials, once we have made the complete transition to TABE 11&12?

A: DRC has indicated that programs may dispose of TABE 9&10 materials in the manner which seems appropriate to them. Please note that since Illinois is allowing use of TABE 9&10 until December 31, 2018, the TABE 9&10 items will be considered secure materials until that time. Therefore, we recommend items be shredded or that you wait to dispose of them until January 2019.

Q: How do we get the Individual Diagnostic Profile report that we can use when we hand-score?

A: On the TABE 11&12 paper-based test order form under the General Accessories section, you will find an Individual Diagnostic Profile report for each test level that you can order.

Misc.

Q: Will there be a Spanish-language version of TABE 11&12?

A: Data Recognition Corporation, the TABE publisher, does NOT have a Spanish-language version of TABE 11&12, nor is this in development. The company has done some research into whether or not there is a demand for this test, but they have not published these results nor have they indicated they will ever move forward with such a test.

Q: Will there be a shorter, “survey” version of TABE 11&12, as there was on 9&10?

A: No, DRC has indicated that the current version of the TABE 11&12 (with 50 questions on each subject test) is the only version that will be published.