

Scale Score Issue – TABE 11&12

After careful review of the TABE 11&12 Scoring Guides, which were published after the test had been released to the field, we have noted an important change in how each subject test is scored and what NRS Levels can be achieved on the TABE.

On the TABE 9 & 10 test the range of scores was as broad as 0.7 grade level (NRS 1) for a Raw Score of 1 to 12.9+ (NRS 6) for a Raw Score of 25. This meant that a student could earn multiple NRS level gains on any level of subject test. However, is it reasonable or accurate that a student could gain multiple NRS levels on ONE 25-question assessment?

This issue is one of many that Data Recognition Corporation addressed when it designed the TABE 11&12 tests. Each TABE level test has content that is aligned specifically to a range of NRS levels and thus a student can only be classified into those NRS levels. For example, Reading Level M has content aligned to the NRS Descriptors for levels 2, 3, and 4. Therefore, there is no Raw Score on the Reading Level M test for which a student can earn a score at NRS Level 1, 5, or 6. This results in a problem as we strive to meet the Measurable Skill Gains established by WIOA.

For example, Marta takes the Locator and it indicates she should take Reading Level M as her pre-test. Marta finishes the Form 11 Reading Level M pre-test with a Raw Score of 35. This equates to a Scale Score of 548 and NRS Level 4. (See Table 29 of the *Scoring Guide*, page 27-28). The problem with this score is that Marta will NOT be able to earn an NRS Level gain using the Reading M test. **NRS Level 4 is the highest possible NRS level a student can earn on a Level M test. Therefore, when Marta post-tests with Reading Level M, she can make point gains but not a level gain.**

TABLE 29. Reading Level M

Raw Score	Form 11			Form 12		
	Scale Score	SEM	NRS Level	Scale Score	SEM	NRS Level
32	529	17	3	538	17	4
33	535	17	3	544	18	4
34	541	18	4	550	18	4
35	548	19	4	557	20	4
36	555	21	4	564	21	4
37	563	22	4	572	22	4
38	572	23	4	572	22	4



Considerations

1. After the student has attained the necessary attendance hours, administer the subject test at one level above the pre-test. The Illinois AEL Provider Manual notes on page 32:

“The same difficulty level of the assessment instrument must be used to pre- and post-test a student except when a student pre-test near the top of the range, has made extraordinary progress in class, or retakes the Locator and scores at a higher level.”

For example, if a student pre-tests at the top of the level range for Reading D, then that student can post-test with Reading A in order to have the opportunity for a level gain. DAISI will accept a pre-test at one level and a post-test at another level. Refer to the TABE 11&12 Scoring Guide to identify when scores are at the top of a range.

2. A determination could be made based on a student’s Locator test to administer a higher subject test level. The chart below contains the cut points for the TABE 11&12 Locator test. The Scoring Guide page 3 indicates that the cut points should be used “in conjunction with any knowledge of the examinee’s previous performance to help determine placement in TABE levels.” Therefore, **if a student scores at the top of a Locator test range, a test administrator may choose to administer the subject test at one level above the recommendation in the chart.**

Interpreting Locator Test Scores – Locator Score Ranges

Reading	Mathematics	Language	TABE Level to Administer
0-5	0-5	0-5	E
6-11	6-9	6-10	M
12-15	10-12	11-13	D
16-19	13-16	14-16	A

For example, Frank takes the TABE 11&12 Locator Reading and scores 15 correct. The test administrator, knowing something of Frank’s abilities, fears that giving him the D Reading pre-test will result in a Scale Score that does not allow him to make an NRS level gain. The administrator thus chooses to administer Frank the Reading Level A as his pre-test instead. This is acceptable practice.

Program using Computer-Based Testing: To intervene between the Locator and the subject level test, you must select Locator as a test session as opposed to Auto-Locator. Therefore, you will need to consider the administrative tasks that may be associated with this process.