

FAQs from TABE: Now and the Future Webinar  
April 2016

Out of Range Scores

- **When do we start using the new rules for out of range scores? Immediately?**

*The Division of Career and Adult Education has always stated that it was best educational practice to retest when you have out of range scores. Now, the policy is that you must retest if a student scores out of range on any level of the TABE. You are not required to go back and retest any students that scored out of range and were reported using those scores, but you should not report out of range scores from this point forward. The only time an out of range score may be reported is if it due to two consecutive out of range scores on the initial test. You should have ceased using out of range scores after receipt of the memo, "2015-2016 Adult Education Assessment Technical Assistance Paper" dated Feb. 22, 2016.*

- **Will a letter be sent to all directors telling them that not reporting out of range scores starts now? I did not see a start date on the Rod Duckworth letter.**

*The memo from Chancellor Duckworth was dated February 22, 2016. That is the effective date.*

- **Are the rules about testing/not counting out of range post test scores (esp. over) a Florida Dept. Ed decision or a DRC recommendation?**

*This is a joint decision between DRC/CTB and the DOE after meeting with the test publisher and determining that out of range scores are not a true indicator of the student's abilities.*

- **If a student had a score higher than 10.9 on the D test, we were not required to retest and could report the score. So do we have to stop reporting any scores above 10.9 on the D immediately?**

YES

- **If we place a GED level student from a D test at 11.0 incorrectly, would that prevent awarding of LCP upon passing the GED exam?**

*You may not place a student in GED prep courses with an 11.0 on the D level (out of range score). If the student has not been enrolled in an AGE course with your district, you will not earn the LCPs for the GED. If you have previously reported an out of range score, you do not need to go back and retest the student.*

- **But, we do not need to go back and retest students who have been placed in GED using an out of range D score?**

*If you have previously reported an out of range score, you do not need to go back and retest the student. You should have ceased using out of range scores after receipt of the memo dated Feb. 22, 2016.*

- **We have been told we must use the Scale Score for out of range determination. We have been given a chart with these ranges.**

*You may use scale score or grade equivalents to determine out of range scores. The chart that has been provided previously is in the process of being updated. It will be released once it is approved by all involved parties. Using the plus or minus two grade equivalents may be easier in determining out of range scores. You may also use the charts provided in this webinar.*

- **Sometimes we are lucky to be able to get the students to do the posttest due to transportation, illness, etc. how do you suggest we get them to retest when they feel they have met the requirements by getting above the 9.0 on a D Level? Is this really fair to the student? Is the object of the newer versions of the TABE coming up to address these inequities? The present system does not make any sense.**

*CTB is looking to several options to reduce the occurrences of out of range scores when using TABE for NRS reporting. Options being reviewed are changes to the Locator and changes to the score ranges at each level of TABE. As the Field Testing is completed this summer we will have more details on changes.*

- **If the student tested out of range high on the M level and then retests immediately on 10D and scores out of range low? What steps should we take?**

*Use the lower of the two scores. The state only requires you to test twice in this case. This would only be for the initial test.*

- **If we test a student 2 times and use the lower out of range score, when we posttest can we earn the LCP?**

*If the student has an in-range score that moves them to the next level of ABE, you may earn the LCP.*

- **Is it acceptable not to record an out of range score on a post-test? Example: Student post-tested on 9D and scores 3.6.**

*If the student scores out of range low on the posttest, you would leave the student in the level of instruction they are in until they test out of that level with an in range score. You may not report the out of range score, but it should be kept in the student's permanent record.*

- **For purposes of reporting CTE completers, what should we do about students who previously took Level D and scored above 10.9, and they are now enrolled in their vocational program? Will we be able to report out-of-range score upon program completion for those students since the policy was not in place when the student tested?**

*DCAE is not requiring you to go back and retest students. If a student was tested and reported as meeting basic skills already, you do not need to retest. You must use in range scores only from this point forward.*

- **Is there a minimal number of hours we have to wait to retest a student after his/her 60 Hour TABE?**

*There is a 50-60 hour minimum amount of instruction required before post-testing a student. That 60 hours would be between each post-test. If you are retesting because the score is out of range, there is no minimum time requirement.*

- **Does the out-of-range TABE test levels apply at the end of a postsecondary program?**

*Out of range scores apply to all test results, pre and post, adult and CTE.*

- **If a student is attending the TABE remediation class while in a postsecondary program with an out-of-range score, would our school be unable to receive payment for his/her improvement?**

Since you may not report out of range scores, a student would not be able to be enrolled with an out of range score, and therefore could not be reported as a completer.

### **Accommodations**

- **If a student is visually impaired what are some ways our testing site can accommodate that student in order for the student to complete TABE testing?**

*TABE paper and pencil version is available in Braille, large print and audio. If you are using TABE on-line, you may change the font color and functionality. And from another participant: For one of our visually impaired students we have used the document camera to magnify the print and his math worksheets in a room with no other students present.*

- **So no extra time on TABE unless there is documentation for this?**

*Additional time on the test would require documentation of a disability. An English Language Learner (ELL) in CTE may have additional time if requested.*

- **If a student presents for Pre-Testing on TABE and states they need extra time...would you allow that?**

*Only if they have a documented disability or if they are a CTE ELL student.*

### **TABE Specific Questions**

- **Are there Spanish versions of the tests?**

*There is no current Spanish version of the test approved for reporting purposes. You may use TABE Español for diagnostic purposes. The state requires testing for career and adult education be in English only. This is a state policy so even if we had a new version FL programs would not be able to use it.*

- **If the D level (for example) only assesses content up to 8.9, can't the scoring computer of the test just max out the score to 8.9, rather than inflating it to 9-12.9 ... since those are out of range?? Can this be taken into consideration when writing programming for 11/12? If the D level only tests the student to the 8.9 level, then why does the report say their GE is 11.0 - 12.9?**

*Level D does not have only content up to 8.9 Grade level. The majority of the content is in the 6-8.9 range but there is some content above and below that range to support the vertical scaling used for TABE.*

- **TABE tests have consistently been a poor indicator of how well students perform on GED tests. Many students scoring as low as 5.0 to 6.5 have passed GED. Doesn't seem to line up well with the GED tests**

*It is important to understand that High School Equivalency (HSE) testing is a business and free to operate in any way that the Publishers' see fit. Adult Basic Education testing is a US Department of Education and state regulated program with federal regulations that need to be followed.*

*Changes to HSE testing can happen at any time and are not dependent on any outside control. ABE testing must follow the NRS program from the US DOE. TABE is following the changes to the NRS program and preparing to apply for federal approval as soon as the program opens on October 1, 2016. As part of the new version of TABE will be alignment to College and Career Readiness Standards which are also used by all new HSE tests. During the TABE 11/12 Field Testing the DRC Research team will be tracking and analyzing performance of students and*

progress from ABE programs to each HSE test in order to align TABE results to HSE performance with TABE 11/12.

- **Will how we are now calculating function levels change when 11&12 are introduced?**

The state uses the NRS functioning levels and changes levels as the NRS changes. The new NRS Functional Levels released last month by the US DOE do not go into effect until there is a federally approved assessment to measure the new Functional Level. The first NRS application date is October 1, 2016 and DRC will submit TABE 11/12 for federal approval and once approved we will seek approval by the FL Board of Education.

- **Will calculators be allowed for all of the math test for 11/12?**

Policies and procedures for the use of calculators will be determined after the Field Testing is completed this summer. It is likely that TABE 11/12 will have a calculator and non-calculator section but that will not be determined until after the Field Test.

- **When can we expect an accurate count of used TABEs online?**

If a customer needs an account total for TABE Online remaining administrations they can contact the TABE Online support team for an audit. A new tracking system for TABE will be introduced with the new INSIGHT platform that TABE 11/12 will move to. In the interim the TABE Support team will continue to update usage reports and send the copies to customers.

- **How do we access the testlets? I've tried to open them with no success.**

TABE Testlets are automatically in the TABE Online. If a program has difficulties scheduling test sessions for Testlets they can contact the Support team for assistance at 866-282-2250.

- **If we are computer based, the student takes the locator, and the score from the level the locator indicates and it falls out of range. Won't we be charged for another test administration? That seems to be in favor of the testing company. Is there going to be some readjustment for the costs? (The locator 9/10 has given many "false" placements.)**

If a program needs to retest a student due to a score that is not in range with the NRS level it would require the use of another test administration or paper answer sheet. If the TABE Online system had an outage or other technical issues that cause a test administration to be lost the customer can request a replacement administration be added to their account. The TABE Locator white paper could be a helpful resource for programs looking to improve the data from the Locator test.

- **Will TABE 11/12 still have out-of-range scores?**

See the above response on the planned analysis of the scoring ranges and also the Locator test changes.

- **Clarification - TABE 11/12 Language will include spelling and language mechanicx?**

Objectives for each section of TABE 11/12 will be released once the Field Test is completed this summer. Customers can review the College and Career Readiness Standards or the recently released new NRS Functional Level Descriptors to see what content areas that test publishers will need to include.

## **Training**

- **Will this recording be available to listen to again later?**

*This is archived on IPDAE and can be accessed at*

*<http://www.floridaipdae.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=resources.ABE&cagiid=E0B9A594B1F2BF65BEC48F252B3F9619AB615CAE57CB38F03B82EE691D3B79B1>*

- **Did you say that this webinar will serve as an update for training on TABE?**

*No, this was just an informative webinar. There is a TABE refresher webinar that will be available mid-May.*