

NRS Score Ranges

BEST Plus 2.0 NRS Score Ranges Effective July 1, 2016

The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) in cooperation with the Office of Career and Technical Adult Education (OCTAE), has published new National Reporting System (NRS) Educational Functioning Level (EFL) score ranges that will go into effect with the launch of BEST Plus 2.0 on July 1, 2016.

For the current program year ending on June 30, 2016, programs should use the original BEST Plus and NRS EFL score ranges as shown in Table 2 of Section III-9 of the *BEST Plus Test Administrator Guide (TAG)*. (For more information about the NRS Educational Functioning Levels, please visit www.nrsweb.org)

The table below provides the NRS EFL score ranges for BEST Plus 2.0 effective July 1, 2016. These new ranges are based on the results of Standard Setting Studies that took place at CAL in 2012 and 2013 using experts from the field including state directors, program coordinators, and BEST Plus trainers.

NRS EFLs and BEST Plus 2.0 Scores	
NRS Educational Functioning Level	BEST Plus 2.0 Score Range
Beginning ESL Literacy	88 to 361
Low Beginning ESL	362 to 427
High Beginning ESL	428 to 452
Low Intermediate ESL	453 to 484
High Intermediate ESL	485 to 524
Advanced ESL	525 to 564
Exit criteria from NRS	565 and higher

The current BEST Plus and Student Performance Level score ranges (Table 1, Section III-8 of the TAG) will remain the same.

Pre and Post Testing

Please note that you cannot pre-test with the original BEST Plus and post-test with BEST Plus 2.0.

- Starting July 1, 2016, programs must use BEST Plus 2.0 for pre- and post-testing for NRS reporting. This means that scores from the original BEST Plus cannot carry over into the new program year.
- Returning students will need to be retested with BEST Plus 2.0 per NRS guidelines. Programs should follow policies set by states and OCTAE.

Instructional Hours

CAL has revised guidance for instructional hours for BEST Plus 2.0 and BEST Literacy as outlined below. Guidance on instructional hours is also posted on the BEST Plus 2.0 web page.

- CAL recommends re-testing students at the end of their period of instruction, with 60 hours minimum (80-100 hours recommended) of instruction prior to re-testing.
- In instances where a student does not have 60 hours, programs should follow state assessment policies and NRS Guidelines when re-testing at the end of the instructional period.
- If students receive more than 60 hours of instruction, CAL does not recommend re-testing students at the 60 hour mark; rather students should be tested at the end of the instructional period to avoid over-testing.

CAL recommends that states work with programs to review program assessment policies and reference the current OCTAE "[NRS Implementation Guidelines](#)" dated February 2015 in their entirety where necessary.