BEST Plus 3.0 and *BEST Literacy 2.0: Questions from the Field*

12/13/2023

QUESTION	RESPONSE
TD & Psychometrics: What groups was the test normed on? (inspired by a participant noting that the language background of ESOL students in MA is changing and continues to change, given movement among different groups and families given 'geopolitical realities')	Both *BEST Plus 3.0* and *BEST Literacy 2.0* underwent several empirical validation studies garnering evidence on the validity and reliability of test scores and their usage. Study participants were recruited from current adult ESL programs across different states in the U.S. and represented a wide range of demographic characteristics and language proficiency levels. In addition, international undergraduate and graduate students in the U.S. were recruited to participate in research because they were representative of the population with higher proficiency levels (NRS EFLs 5 and 6). The demographic makeup of the samples in the research studies is comparable to those of English Language Acquisition programs nationwide, as reported for programs in 2018–2019 (U.S. Department of Education, 2020b).
Score Interpretation and Use Looking at the 3.0 scale scores and NRS levels, does "above NRS Level 6" mean "Exit NRS"?	That is correct. When examinees receive the result of "Above NRS Level 6", this means that they have topped out of the scale of NRS EFLs 1-6. Individual programs are guided by the local policy and programmatic rules in determining the academic pathway for examinees scoring above NRS Level 6.
Score Interpretation and Use Does CAL have more guidance for supporting both the field and learners with help on how to make instructional decisions and changes based on scale score and EFL levels (for the 3.0)?	*BEST Plus 3.0* can be used to inform placement decisions, assessment of student progress, instructional planning, program evaluation, and accountability reporting. To inform instruction, a review of a student's performance on *BEST Plus 3.0* can provide valuable information about the student's ability to perform particular language-use tasks. You can also gather useful information about students' speaking and listening skills in English by examining language proficiency descriptors such as the NRS EFL descriptors. In addition, comparing

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	students' *BEST Plus 3.0* scores with the results of other classroom- or program-based assessments (such as quizzes, projects, portfolios, and other performance tasks) will give you a more complete understanding of what students have learned and what they still need to learn. More detailed information and guidance will be available in the *BEST Plus 3.0* Test Administrator Guide.
Test Admin & Delivery 1. Has CAL added any accommodations considerations for the 3.0? 2. How will the testing software be distributed? 3. Where it is cloud based, does it match with the log in person? Can it be transferred from one user to another? 4. Will the scores auto upload to LACES?	1. Yes, when developing the application for test delivery, CAL took accessibility and accommodations into consideration while ensuring that the test design and validity is not compromised. The details about providing reasonable accommodation will be available in the *BEST Plus 3.0 Test Administrator Guide.* 2. The *BEST Plus 3.0* test application will be available for download free of charge with the purchase of *BEST Plus 3.0.* 3. Yes, the test delivery platform for *BEST Plus 3.0* will be cloud based and examinee data will be stored in the cloud as well as locally. In terms of logins, each program will have one set of credentials that can be shared across multiple test administrators and be used on multiple devices at the same program. In other words, all test administrators working at the same program will share the same login credentials. Test administrations are loaded to each program account, and each device can pull down or return test administrations to the program's total. 4. Unfortunately, no. The test delivery platform, CAL Test Platform, is not automatically connected with LACES as programs at different states use different systems for NRS reporting. However, you can export examinee data from the cloud storage very easily as an Excel spreadsheet,

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	so the upload to LACES can be set up manually.
Training Do you know how long the refresher course is?	We are currently in the planning stages of the *BEST Plus 3.0 Scoring Refresher Toolkit* development and thus do not yet have an estimate for the time required to complete it. As a reminder, the self-access, self-paced, online training course for the *BEST Plus 3.0* test will be available **free of charge** to all new test administrators and existing *BEST Plus 2.0* users through August 2024. The exact time required to complete this training will vary for individual test administrators given that this is a self-access, self-paced course. We estimate that the full completion of the course will take between 6 and 10 hours, depending on the individual pace and whether a test administrator in training decides to review or skip the module covering unmodified content and scoring formats.

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