

Overview

Regional Assessment Training (RAT) for BEST Plus, TABE and CASAS will take place in August and September 2014 for AEFLA- and EL/Civics-funded adult education programs in Colorado. Effective FY15, three components of RAT are required and must be completed in order to meet state criteria for test administration in AEFLA-funded programs.

RAT will include:

1. **Pre-training** webinar: overview of assessment policy
2. **Training**
 - a. Full-day face-to-face BEST Plus training
 - b. Half-day face-to-face TABE or CASAS training
 - c. Online Certification for those who have previously attended CASAS BIT training
3. **Post-training** local application activity

CDE/AEFL requires test administrators for each assessment used at the program to be certified every two years. Minimally, one person from each program must be certified in each standardized assessment used.

Registration information with host site addresses will be sent out in June. Please see below for the schedule of webinars and face-to-face sessions followed by descriptions of each session.

Contact Chelsea Stewart with any questions: abetlc@colostate.edu

Schedule

Session	Dates								
	8/1	8/7	8/15	8/20	8/21	8/22	8/29	9/5	9/12
Webinar		X		X					
* Online CASAS BIT		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Locations								
	Denver		Fort Collins		Durango	Durango	Denver	Pueblo	Denver
BEST Plus Administrator	X				X				
BEST Plus Refresher			X				X		
TABE			X			X	X	X	
CASAS IT			X			X		X	X
CASAS BIT			X						X

*Open enrollment between 8/7 and 9/5 once eligibility is determined with the ABE-TLC office.
E-mail Chelsea Stewart with questions: abetlc@colostate.edu

Training Descriptions

BEST Plus Administrator

This full-day training is designed for new and experienced teachers, administrators and intake specialists who plan to administer BEST Plus for ESL learners. Participants must complete the full 6-hour administrator training to be certified as local BEST Plus testers. The agenda includes the background of the test, test content, administration techniques, practice scoring authentic student responses shown on video, and hands-on test administration in a computer lab. Participants completing the full training receive for their program a Test Administrator Guide, the scoring rubric, and a CD with the Test Administration and Score Management Software.

In order to select the best possible candidates to attend this training, note the following characteristics for a BEST Plus test administrator:

1. Good hearing, speech and vision.
2. Native or near-native command of English. Meets or approximates a native speaker's fluency and ability to convey own ideas precisely. Speaks English without effort. Excellent control of English grammar with no apparent patterns of weakness. Able to read and understand all training materials, deliver test prompts effortlessly, and understand and score examinees' responses accurately using the BEST Plus scoring rubric.
3. Basic familiarity with computers or willingness to learn for administering the computer-adaptive test.

Policy notes: All potential test administrators are required to successfully complete the BEST Plus Administrator Training before they may begin testing.

BEST Plus Scoring Refresher

This full-day training is designed for all BEST Plus testers who have previously completed the BEST Plus Administrator Training. Completion of the Scoring Refresher Training helps all participants improve their scoring accuracy, consistency, and confidence. The agenda includes an enhanced review of the three-part BEST Plus scoring rubric using numerous video benchmark samples, discussion and video scoring practice. Participants complete a 35-item BEST Plus scoring activity to assess their scoring accuracy. Participants discover the area(s) in which their scoring inaccuracies tend to occur and are given suggestions for remediation, as necessary.

BEST Plus State Trainer: Jane Miller – CDE, Office of Adult Education and Family Literacy

TABE

This training is for new and experienced staff members who administer TABE 9 & 10 and/or utilize the resulting data. Standardized assessment administration including testing procedures and materials will be emphasized. Participants will examine the best practices for preparing students, the environment and staff to ensure consistent administration and results.

TABE State Trainers: Elizabeth Shupe – CDE, Office of Adult Education and Family Literacy
Kathy Bell – Morgan Community College

CASAS Implementation Training (IT)

This training is for participants new to CASAS and those who want to review assessment procedures.

Session Objectives:

- Follow standardized testing procedures in test selection and administration
- Use assessments to place learners into Colorado EFLs and to measure learner progress
- Identify key elements in effective intake and orientation

CASAS Beyond Implementation Training (BIT)

This interactive session is for those who have previously been certified in the CASAS IT. Participants will be recertified as test administrators.

This session covers:

- Pre-assessment
- Implementation at your agency
- Evaluating implementation effectiveness
- Review of CASAS
- Resources to support instruction
- Resources for your program

CASAS BIT Online

This option is for those who have previously been certified by taking both the CASAS IT the CASAS BIT. Participants will be recertified as test administrators. This module mirrors the face-to-face CASAS BIT, is self-paced, and may take two to three hours to complete. To verify that you are eligible for this option, please contact the ABE-TLC office: abetlc@colostate.edu to receive a code that you will input when you register for the three-part Regional Assessment Training.

The online module will give tools and resources recommended to administer CASAS tests, interpret test results, and use curriculum support materials to enhance instruction. Participants may want to incorporate some of these tools and resources into existing assessment plans to maximize instruction. Each unit offers a Self-Test to confirm understanding. A certificate of completion is generated at the conclusion of this training.

CASAS National Trainer: Kathy Santopietro Weddel

CASAS State Trainers: Nadeen Lester and Chelsea Stewart