



Provisional Placement FAQ October 2020

Q: Are we assigning a provisional score for students that started prior to this change?

A: Yes. All students, starting July 1, 2020 need to have a provisional placement assigned, if an NRS test (TABE 11/12, CLAS-E, Best 2.0) was not able to be administered.

Q: If someone is marked as provisional, must they be tested within 30 days?

A: The 30-day timeframe is a recommendation, not a requirement. The reason we are recommending a timeframe for acquiring an NRS test is so programs can capture, as close as possible, the number of instructional hours between the pre and posttest. By assigning a provisional placement if needed, students who are unable to be NRS tested within the program year are still able to achieve an MSG by enrolling in postsecondary education and training (PSET) within one year of exit from Aspire or by obtaining a high school equivalence (HSE) in the program year.

Q: What if a student is given a provisional and comes in after 30 days and is given an assessment? Do we continue to use the provisional placement, or do we use the standardized assessment placement, although it's outside the 30-day window?

A: The goal is to report as many NRS tests as possible for placement in ABLELink, so students can obtain MSGs the most common way – through pre and posttest gains. If that is not possible at the time, and the student is assigned a provisional placement, then completes an NRS test outside of the 30-day timeframe, go ahead and replace the provisional with the actual test.

Example: The student completes virtual orientation on Oct. 20, does not have a computer with a camera, completes a formative assessment, accumulates 20 hours of attendance thus far, then stops out. The student is registered in ABLELink with a provisional placement. She comes back Dec. 1. She takes the TABE test and the scores are reported in ABLELink. Replace the provisional placement with the actual assessment using Dec. 1 as the test date, even though the student was tested outside the 30-day timeframe.

Q: Can you add the assessment then delete the provisional placement score or do you have to replace them instead?

A: It is probably easier to just replace the provisional placement score, but either option is acceptable.

Q: When I input the provisional placement information for current learners who have been in the program from July 1st to last week, do I use today's date?

A: You should use the student's first date of attendance, or after, as their provisional placement date. If it is entered before their first date of attendance for the program year, the level will not show up in ABLELink as being inside of their attendance.

Q: Do we now uncheck the "covid exempt" box when we enter the provisional placement score?

A: There is no need to go back and uncheck the COVID exempt box; instead, clean these records up as you are assigning provisional levels or updating test scores.

Q: If we use a provisional placement score on the Progress Form, we only check the EFL level, correct?

A: No, you need to enter the score and ABLELink will set the level. Make sure that you check the provisional box. If you are completing the paper version of the Progress Form with a provisional level, make sure to note that the level is provisional since there is no assessment to assign the scale score. The entry in ABLELink must have the appropriate scale score that matches the assigned level.

Q: We only enter the lowest score not the level (TABE A, D, M, or E), correct?

A: Yes.

Q: Do we just put in a provisional placement score for one subject level?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there a recommendation for a diagnostic assessment for ESOL?

A: [The Best Free Online Tools For ELLs To Use For Assessing Their Language-Level](#). Note, most are aligned to the European framework, but still indicate beginning, intermediate and advanced.

[Using Informal Assessments for English Language Learners](#)

[5 Ways to Assessing English Language Learners without resorting to tests](#)

[ESLOA: English as a Second Language Oral Assessment](#) from New Readers' Press

Q: Could we use a TABE score from prior to Jan. 1, 2020, as the provisional placement score for a returning student?

A: No. The program would need to use a formative assessment in order to obtain a provisional placement score if the student is returning from 2019. Per the Assessment Policy: *Due to the impact of COVID-19, the most current student test scores in ABLELink that were administered between January 1, 2020, and June 30, 2020, may be rolled forward through December 31, 2020, and reported in ABLELink as an initial test for FY 2021 for returning students.*

The program could use the student's last test as a guide for what to use now. For example, if the year-old test was TABE M Math EFL 3 then look at the diagnostic from that test to determine what to assess the student in now.

Q: When we replace the provisional placement score with a standardized assessment, do we keep the provisional date?

A: No. Use the date of the standardized assessment.

Additional Questions:

Q: If a student enrolls in ADP will he get an MSG?

A: A student who has come to an Aspire program for help preparing for the WorkKeys test has the potential to obtain an MSG for both PSET and High School Diploma. Once the student passes the WorkKeys test and enrolls into the ADP program, the Aspire program can count this as a transition to Post-Secondary Education and Training. Once the student completes the program and has earned his diploma, the Aspire program can count this as having earned a high school diploma.

Q: Can we put the Social Security Number (SSN) back on the Release of Information (RIF) form?

A: Yes. We have both versions of the RIF and RRIF, with and without SSNs, on the website now. The initial reason for taking the SSN off the RIF was to ensure Personally Identifiable Information (PII) like SSNs were not being transmitted electronically non-secured. Now that sites are opening up for in-person orientation, we understand that some programs like having the SSN on the RIF as a way to double-check capturing the accurate SSN. The Modified Student Registration form includes the modified RIF without SSN for electronic transmission. The regular RIF with SSN is back on the website for in-person registration.

Q: Is there additional funding available specifically for proctored TABE testing through ProctorU?

A: No. If programs choose to use that service, it would come from your local budget and need to be a reasonable cost.