

Guidance for Invalid TABE Online Scores

Locator

Like the Paper-Pencil TABE test, the Locator test is a brief assessment of the student's academic skill.

1. Assigning the Locator
 - a. Option 1: The Locator may be administered at the same time as the TABE test. Using this method, the Locator will automatically assign the level for each of the sub-tests in the assessment.
 - i. Advantages: Efficient for teachers and flows well for students.
 - ii. Disadvantages: The Locator has strict rules that it is programmed to follow, so if a student is assessed to be at the very top of a level, then the Locator will place the student in that level even though it could lead to invalid scores. Also, if the Locator is assigned this way, then the results cannot be viewed by administrators.
 - b. Option 2: Assigning the Locator as a separate test. This allows teachers to see the results of the student's Locator, and assign the level of each sub-test.
 - i. Advantages: If a student scores near the top or bottom of a level, then that can be factored into test level assignments.
 - ii. Disadvantages: This is much more time consuming for both teachers and students. Teachers have to go in and manually set the level for each test for each student. Students will have to take the Locator and come back another time to take the rest of the test.

2. Locator Results

- a. The different levels the TABE Online Locator will place a student are Easy, Medium, Difficult, and Advanced.
- b. Each Level corresponds with a Grade Equivalency (GE) range:

Test Level	Content Grade Level Range	Grade Level Range for Valid Scores
Level L (Literacy)	0 – 1.9	0-3.9
Level E (Easy)	2.0 – 3.9	0-5.9
Level M (Medium)	4.0 – 5.9	2.0-7.9
Level D (Difficult)	6.0 – 8.9	4.0-10.9
Level A (Advanced)	9.0 – 12.9	7.0-12.9

- i. The valid range for a level is +/- 2 grade levels from the content range. For instance, Level M can accurately score a student between 2.0 and 7.9. Any scores that fall outside of the range for Level M are not valid, and, therefore, cannot be used for NRS reporting.
 - c. The Locator will place students in different levels for different subjects. A student can be a Level D in Reading and a Level M in Language.
3. **Note:** Students can expect questions to which they do not know the answer, but they should *not* guess. A correct guess could place a student in a higher level test than what he

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or she is actually best suited for. Encourage students to leave questions unanswered if they do not know the answer.

Pre Test

The Pre-Test is the first full test taken by students. Either the Complete Battery or the Survey version of the test may be used.

1. Placement

- a. If teachers choose to manually place students in the appropriate level based on Locator scores, then the following should be noted:
 - i. If a student's Locator has a GE at the top of a Level, then teachers should consider Pre-Testing the student at the next Level up. If the Locator scores a student at 5.7, then the student is technically at a level M; however, it is possible for the student to score above the valid score range for the M Level test. Therefore, a teacher needs to consider bumping the student up to a Level D test to get the most accurate scores for the student.
 - ii. The same is true if a student scores at the lower ranges of a level on the Locator. For instance, a GE of 4.1 is technically a Level M, but a student may struggle with that level on a Pre-Test and score below the valid range.
 - iii. **Note:** It is not recommended that every student who scores at the edge of a level on the Locator have his or her test level changed. A teacher should very carefully consider options prior to making any change to test levels.

Post Test

The Post Test is the test that students take after receiving 40-60 hours of instruction based on his or her Pre Test.

1. Post Test Level

- a. If a student Pre Tests at Level M and displays a basic mastery of Level M skills by the end of the 40-60 training hours, then the student will need to Post Test at Level D. If the student is Post Tested with a Level M test after showing mastery of Level M skills, then he or she is very likely to score beyond the valid range of the test.
- b. As with the Pre Test, if a student scores outside of the valid range of the Level, then he or she will need to be retested.