

BEST Literacy 2.0 Administrator Training



Introductions!

- ▶ Name
- ▶ Program and Role
- ▶ Any experience with BEST Literacy assessments?
- ▶ What do you like best, reading or writing? What do you like to read or write most?

Introduction

What is *BEST Literacy 2.0*?

- An assessment of English Language Learners' Reading and Writing skills
- Uses a variety of functional literacy tasks that reflect authentic situations
- Designed for ages 16 and older
- Maximum testing time is one hour
- May be administered to groups or individuals

BEST
Literacy 2.0
can be
used for

Placement Decisions

Assessment of Student Progress

Instructional Planning

Program Evaluation

Accountability Reporting

NYSED BEST Literacy Policy



Beginning July 1, 2025, agencies have the *option* of using the BEST Literacy 2.0 to assess students who have exited BEST Plus 3.0.



BEST Literacy 1.0 sunset on June 30th, 2025.



Students who score 262 (NRS 5) or higher on the Reading section for BEST Literacy 2.0 should be next tested using a different assessment that is designed for NRS levels 5 and 6.

BEST Literacy 1.0

- Print forms **B (Blue)**, **C (Green)**, **D (Yellow)**
- Time limit 1 hour
- Scores translate to level descriptors of the National Reporting System (NRS)
- Test out @ NRS 6 (scale score 76-78)
- Original Tasks:
 - Reading: Reading dates on a calendar, labels on food and clothing, bulletin announcements, newspaper want ads, etc.
 - Writing: Addressing an envelope, writing a rent check, filling out a personal background form, and writing personal notes.

BEST Literacy 2.0

- Print forms **1 (Blue)**, **2 (Green)**, **3 (Yellow)**
- Time limit 1 hour
- Scores translate to numeric levels of the National Reporting System (NRS)
- Test out with a Reading score of NRS 5 (262+)
 - Composite tops out at NRS 4
- Updated tasks:
 - Reading: Identifying days, dates, times, and prices in announcements, emails, and websites; interpreting weather forecasts; identifying uses of household products; and understanding website information.
 - Writing: Retelling community event details; making an invitation to a friend; completing an appointment form; providing a reason to support an opinion; and making reservations.

Test Overview



6 themed parts with integrated reading and writing

3 passages in each part: A, B, and C

3 reading comprehension question types:

- Yes/No
- Multiple Choice
- Fact Write-In

3 writing task question types:

- Form/Table
- Sentence Completion (via sentence frames)
- Extended Writing (via 2-3 or 3-5 sentence paragraphs)

Specific Tasks Included

Dates, times, and prices in
announcements/emails/websites

Interpreting weather forecasts and community events

Making an invitation to a friend

Identifying uses of household products

Appointment forms

Support an opinion about community topics

Making reservations

What Grammar and Language Functions are present in the assessment?

Simple tenses

Present progressive tense

Negation

Yes/No and info questions

Basic modals

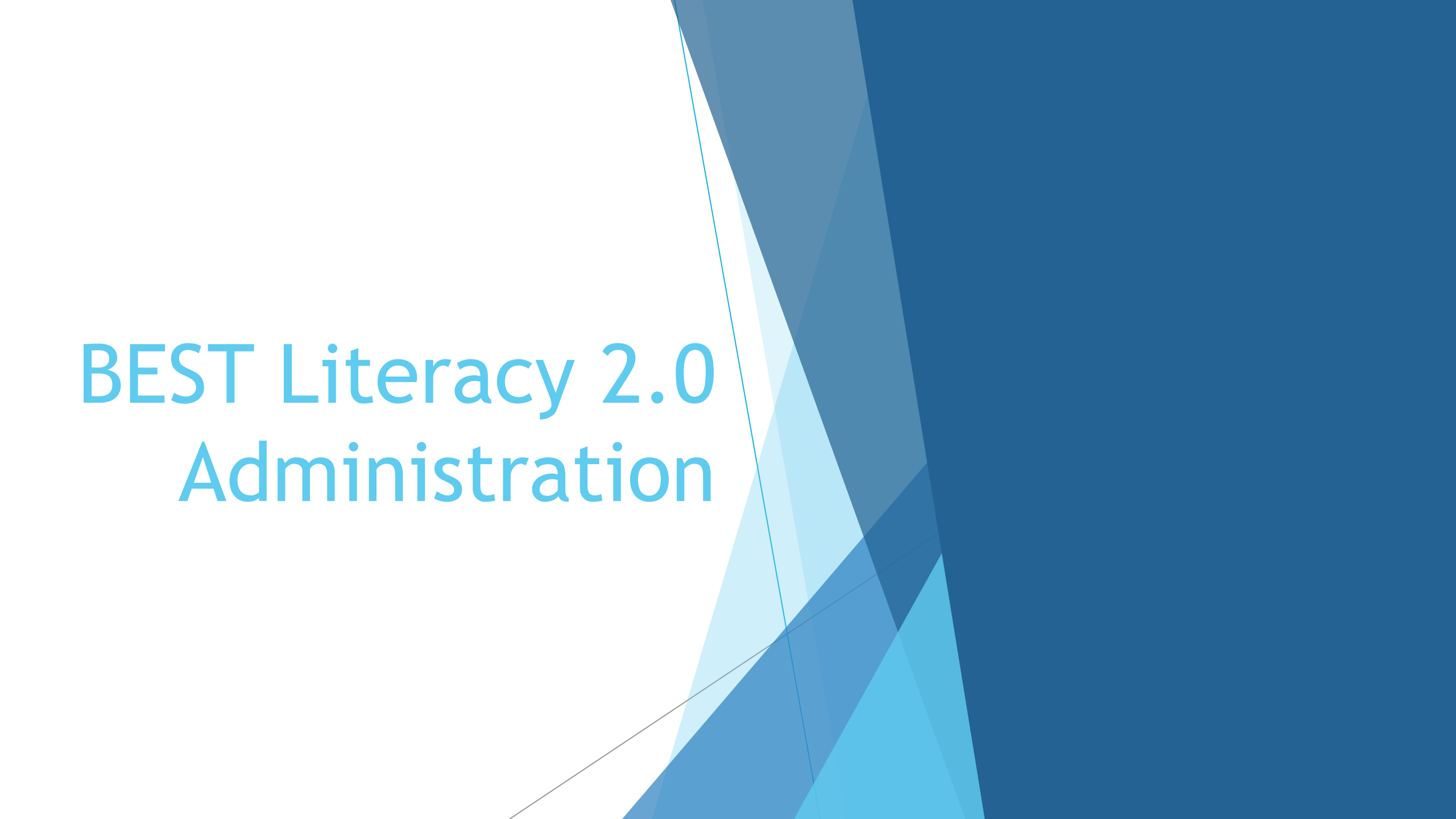
Imparting information

Requesting information

Seeking clarification

TOPIC AREAS	SKILLS
Community	
Consumerism	
Education	
Family	
Health	
Housing	
Recreation	
Weather	

TOPIC AREAS	SKILLS
Community	• Read and write about community locations • Read and write about community events
Consumerism	• Read and write about product information
Education	• Read class schedules • Fill out simple class forms and express simple opinions • Read and write emails to classmates
Family	• Read and write about celebrations in the United States
Health	• Read and write about medicine labels • Read about and fill out a simple form to make doctor's appointments • Read and write about health articles about toothbrushes
Housing	• Read and write about instructions for household appliances • Read and write about safety instructions for household products
Recreation	• Read about movies, fill out a ticket order form, and express simple opinions • Read and write about information about local pools
Weather	• Read and write about weather forecasts



BEST Literacy 2.0 Administration

Selecting Test Administrators

The characteristics of an ideal BEST Literacy 2.0 test administrator include:

An excellent command of the English language

Experience and comfort interacting with non-native English speakers

A clear, loud voice and strong speaking style for reading the directions aloud and answering questions

1

Follow the test administration instructions in the BEST Literacy 2.0 Test Manual

2

Put nervous people at ease

3

Manage a group of students being tested simultaneously, if necessary

4

Understand the difference between being a tutor/teacher and being a test administrator

5

Keep all test materials and test items secure

BEST Literacy 2.0 Administrators Should Be Able to:

01

Do not duplicate
test questions in
any form for class
discussion or other
use

02

Do not engage in
coaching

03

Do not allow
examinees to have
any form of
assistance during
the test

Ensuring Test Validity and
Security

Providing Reasonable Accommodations

Requests for accommodations must be handled according to applicable laws and regulations

Accommodations must not compromise the purpose of the test

It is NOT permissible to read the questions out loud



USE OF EYEGLASSES
OR MAGNIFYING
GLASS



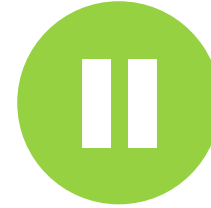
EARPLUGS



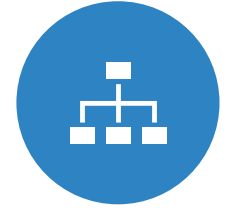
COLOR OVERLAYS



RULERS



FREQUENT BREAKS



INDIVIDUAL
ADMINISTRATION

Permissible Reasonable Accommodations Include:

Preparing to Administer the BEST Literacy 2.0 Test

Setting up for
the test

Maintaining a
positive
environment

Managing
unexpected
circumstances

1

Arrange the
testing room

2

Begin test by
distributing
materials and
reading
instructions

3

Monitor
examinees and
inform of
remaining time
(as needed)

4

Respond to
requests for
help
appropriately

How to administer *BEST* Literacy 2.0

Read, Pair, Share

1. Please **review** Script A and Script B.
2. Jot down anything that stands out to you:
 - What caught your attention?
 - What questions came up for you?
3. **Pair** up with someone nearby and discuss.
4. Anything you'd like to **share** with the group?

▶ **Script A** (for students who do not need to review sample questions)

▶ **Script B** (for students who need to review sample questions)

1

Collect examinee test booklets and verify the identity of each examinee if necessary.

2

If examinee filled in the front of the test booklet, confirm accuracy and legibility.

3

Secure all test materials.

At the end of the test

Let's take a 10-minute break!

BEST Literacy 2.0 Scoring



Selecting Test Scorers

An ability to see and read examinee responses in the examinee test booklets

Familiarity with student handwriting

Experience with teaching adult English language learners

Scoring BEST Literacy 2.0

Scorer calibration keeps scorers aligned with the scoring rubric and maintains valid test results

All scoring is done on a separate scoring sheet

Scoring sheets and examinee booklets have matching colors

Scoring BEST Literacy 2.0

BEST Literacy 2.0 scoring sheets display the Reading section on the left and the Writing section on the right



Scoring instructions in the BEST Literacy 2.0 Test Manual follow this order:

specific instructions and examples for scoring Reading are first...

...followed by specific instructions for scoring Writing.

Scoring Sheet

Examinee's Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Date of Test: _____ Testing Site: _____ Scorer: _____

Student ID: _____ Program Use: _____

	PART 1	PART 2	PART 3	PART 4	PART 5	PART 6	RAW SCORE TOTAL	SCALE SCORE	NRS LEVEL
Reading Raw Score Totals									
Writing Raw Score Totals									
Composite Scale Score = (Reading Scale Score + Writing Scale Score) / 2									

Conversions for scale scores and NRS levels for Form 1 can be found in Appendix C in the *Test Manual*.

PART 1: COMMUNITY CENTER (pp. 4–7)									
READING (pp. 4–6)					WRITING (p. 7)				
1. <i>pottery, pottery class</i>			0	1	8. Jim's Class (FT)				
2a. Yes	☒	☒	0	1	Name	☒	☒		
2b. No	☒	☒			Address	☒	☒		
3. <i>Spanish, Spanish and games</i>			0	1	Day/Time	☒	☒		
4. a			0	1	Email	☒	☒		
5. <i>swimming, swimming activity</i>			0	1	Price	☒	☒	0	1 2
6. c			0	1	9. Your Class (SC)				
7. b			0	1				0	1 2
PART 1 READING Raw Score Total					PART 1 WRITING Raw Score Total				

Scoring Reading

Yes/No question pairs

One-Fact Response Inventory

Spelling and handwriting

Non-English responses

Scoring Writing

Three types of writing tasks, each have their own rubric

- Form and Table
- Sentence Completion
- Extended Writing

Form and Table Example

8. Paula's Movie Tickets

Paula Moore will see *Fast Cars 3D* at 3:00pm.
Paula's email address is pmoore22@world.com.
She will buy 1 adult ticket and 1 children's ticket.

Complete the order form using Paula's information.

Movie Ticket Order Form	
Customer name	Paula Moore
Email address	
Movie name	
Movie time	
Number of adult tickets	
Number of children's tickets	Also she is my
Number of senior tickets	0

Form and Table Rubric

✓	The blank is successfully completed because it is <u>all</u> of the following: • comprehensible • legible • appropriate
✗	The blank is unsuccessfully completed because it is one of the following: • incomprehensible • blank • illegible • inappropriate
2	All blanks are marked correct.
1	At least one blank is marked correct.
0	No blanks are marked correct.

Sentence Completion Example

9. Your Class Choice

Look at **A**, **B**, and **C**.

Which class would you like to take? Why?

Complete the sentence.

I would like to take the class

because _____

Sentence Completion Rubric

2	Given the supplied language, the complete writing is all of the following: • easy to understand • appropriate, and • complete
1	Given the supplied language, the complete writing is one or more of the following: • difficult to understand at times • partially appropriate • partially complete
0	Despite the supplied language, the complete writing is one or more of the following: • difficult to understand • inappropriate • incomplete • illegible

Extended Writing Example

9. Making a Reservation

You want to reserve a space in Southwood Park for a party. Think about:

- The date
- The time
- The number of people
- Which option (1, 2, or 3) you want to use
- Why you want that option

Complete the email to Shannon Jackson. Tell her about your party. Tell her which option you would like to use and why. Write 2–3 sentences.

Dear Ms. Jackson,

Shannon Jackson - Tell her about your party. Tell her which option you would like to use and why.

Extended Writing Rubric

3	The writing meets the following criteria: • Fully comprehensible • Fulfills all task requirements communicatively, including appropriate awareness of audience • Successful elaboration. May have explicit and implicit subordination (use of dependent clauses with a complementizer [that, if, whether] or a subordinating conjunction [after, because, while]) • Fulfills the minimum required amount of writing • Any source text used is successfully adapted
2	The writing meets the following criteria: • Generally comprehensible • Fulfills only part of task requirements communicatively, but writing is clearly on task • Clear attempt at elaboration, but unsuccessful • May be fewer than the minimum required number of sentences • Any source text used is adapted, but not always successfully
1	The writing meets the following criteria: • Difficult to comprehend • Clear attempt to fulfill task requirements, or on task, but communicates only basic minimal information or it misinterprets the task • Little or no attempt at elaboration, successful or unsuccessful • Fewer than the minimum required number of sentences • Any source text used is copied without a clear attempt at adaptation
0	The writing meets the following criteria: • Generally incomprehensible • Off-task or off-topic • May include attempt at elaboration, but unsuccessful because it is off-task, off-topic, or incomprehensible • Fewer than the minimum required number of sentences • Any source text used is simply copied but is not clearly related to the task

Let's try some question scoring practice!

On pages 127-141 of the manual, there are 20 sample writing responses to practice scoring.

You can work on them independently or partner up.

When you are done, you can check your answers on pages 143-145. Note any answers that you got wrong and are still confused about, and we will discuss them at the end.

01

Score the test and
record the Raw
Scores

02

Convert the Raw
Scores to Scale
Scores using Score
Conversion Table

03

Use the two scale
scores to determine
a composite scale
score

Calculating Total Scale Scores

Form 1 Scoring Sheet Example

Let's Practice!

	PART 1	PART 2	PART 3	PART 4	PART 5	PART 6	RAW SCORE TOTAL	SCALE SCORE	NRS LEVEL
Reading Raw Score Totals	7	7	6	5	7	5			
Writing Raw Score Totals	4	3	4	4	2	4			
Composite Scale Score = (Reading Scale Score + Writing Scale Score) / 2									

NRS LEVEL CONVERSIONS

NRS Level	Scale Score Range		
	READING	WRITING	COMPOSITE
Level 1: Beginning ESL Literacy	100 to 177	100 to 187	100 to 182
Level 2: Low Beginning ESL	178 to 203	188 to 214	183 to 209
Level 3: High Beginning ESL	204 to 233	215 to 254	210 to 244
Level 4: Low Intermediate ESL	234 to 261	255 to 300	245 to 300
Level 5: High Intermediate ESL	262 to 300		

Manual pages 110 - 115

READING	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	100
1	118
2	133
3	142
4	148
5	154
6	159
7	163
8	166
9	170
10	173
11	176
12	179
13	182
14	184
15	187
16	189
17	192
18	194
19	197
20	199
21	201
22	204
23	206
24	208
25	210
26	213
27	215
28	218
29	220
30	223
31	225
32	228
33	231
34	234
35	238
36	241
37	245
38	250
39	256
40	265

WRITING	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	100
1	122
2	140
3	153
4	163
5	170
6	176
7	182
8	186
9	190
10	194
11	197
12	201
13	204
14	207
15	211
16	214
17	217
18	221
19	225
20	229
21	234
22	239
23	246
24	255
25	265
26	282
27	300

OBTAINING A SCALE SCORE AND NRS LEVEL:

1. Find the correct Scale Score Conversion table located in the BEST Literacy 2.0 Test Manual appendix for the test form that was used (Form 1, 2, or 3).
2. On the Scale Score Conversion table, locate the test taker's raw scores for Reading and Writing, and write down the corresponding scale scores on the Scoring Sheet.
3. Add the Reading and Writing scale scores and divide by 2 in order to calculate the student's composite scale score.
4. Using the NRS Level Conversion Table, locate the student's scale scores for Reading, Writing, and Composite, and write down the corresponding NRS Level.

Interpreting the Test Results

Performance on the BEST Literacy 2.0 provides insight into examinees reading skills through NRS 5 and writing skills through NRS 4

Test results give instructors and understanding of what students have learned and what they still need to learn

BEST Literacy gives **NO** indication of a student's English *speaking* or *listening* abilities

NRS LEVEL CONVERSIONS

NRS Level	Scale Score Range		
	READING	WRITING	COMPOSITE
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Level 5: High Intermediate ESL	262 to 300		

Let's do a little math here to find out what composite NRS levels different reading & writing scale scores might amount to.

Add New Best Literacy 2 Record

Date	11/03/2025
Form	1
Subject	Composite
Mode	Paper
Scale score	
NRSLevel	
Administrator	Select an option

Composite up to NRS 4

Add New Best Literacy 2 Record

Date	11/03/2025
Form	1
Subject	Reading
Mode	Paper
Scale score	
NRSLevel	
Administrator	Select an option

Reading up to NRS 5

References



<https://www.cal.org/aea/blv20/>



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☐ **Questions?**

☐ **Additional Resources**

☐ **Evaluation**

Thank you!