

Retesting Guidelines

Programs have encountered difficulty in using TABE CLAS-E Writing scores for evaluating gain between pre- and post-tests. To determine whether a student’s score on their TABE CLAS-E pre-test is a reasonable reflection of that student’s proficiency, compare the student’s scale score from the CLAS-E test to the guidelines below that correspond to the difficulty level of the test taken (1, 2, 3, or 4). For each possible scale score, instructors are directed to one of three actions: retest immediately using the next lower level of CLAS-E, not retest at all, or retest immediately using the next higher level of CLAS-E.

Checking for Retesting is only needed during the first time a student is tested using the CLAS-E Writing.

The guidelines presented below were developed with careful *statistical* consideration of the standard error of measurement (SEM)¹. The SEM is a statistical estimate of the amount of error to be expected in a particular score from a particular test, and provides the user with a range within which a student’s true score is likely to fall. Lower SEM is associated with more precise measurement while higher SEM means that an individual’s score contains more error and is less reliable. SEM is a reasonable indicator of the reliability of test results. An individual student’s observed score from a single testing experience is likely to fall within one SEM of the student’s true score 68% of the time, and within two SEMs 95% of the time. The guidelines are computed using the statistical properties of the tests to ensure that decisions as to whether or not students should be retested are based on the statistical levels of errors in the scores.

TABE CLAS-E Writing Assessment Retesting Guidelines Chart

CLAS-E Level 1		
If your student’s scale score is 470 or below, DO NOT RETEST	If your student’s scale score is 471 or above, RETEST with LEVEL 2	
CLAS-E Level 2		
If your student’s scale score is 371 or below, RETEST with LEVEL 1	If your student’s scale score is between 372 and 513, DO NOT RETEST	If your student’s scale score is 514 or above, RETEST with LEVEL 3
CLAS-E Level 3		
If your student’s scale score is 420 or below, RETEST with LEVEL 2	If your student’s scale score is between 421 and 545, DO NOT RETEST	If your student’s scale score is 546 or above, RETEST with LEVEL 4
CLAS-E Level 4		
If your student’s scale score is 495 or below, RETEST with LEVEL 3	If your student’s scale score is 496 or above, DO NOT RETEST	

¹ SEM is computed as $SEM = SD\sqrt{1-r}$ where *SD* is the standard deviation of the test and *r* is the reliability. For TABE CLAS-E, reliability coefficients provided by the publisher are KR-20 estimates of internal consistency. SDs and KR-20 estimates are from the TABE Technical Report. The SEM for CLAS-E is computed in Sireci, 2011.