

ABE Terms

ABE	Adult Basic Education, includes levels from beginning literacy through GED preparation and English for Speakers of Other Languages
ESL/ESOL	English as a Second Language/English for Speakers of Other Languages—preferred since participants may be speakers of many languages; English may not be a second language for some.
CASAS	Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems—a system for assessing adult basic reading, math, listening, writing, and speaking skills within a functional context. CASAS is the only adult assessment system of its kind to be approved and validated by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Labor to assess both native and non-native speakers of English. Backed by 25 years of research and development in adult assessment, instruction, and evaluation, CASAS provides programs with the resources and expertise to establish a comprehensive performance accountability system, address core indicators of performance, integrate literacy and occupational skill instruction, and evaluate the effectiveness of adult education and literacy programs. CASAS assessment, training, and evaluation are based on the critical competencies and skill areas required for success in the workplace, community, and family.
OPT	Official Practice Tests of the GED. In Kansas, candidates for GED testing must take and pass the OPT battery of tests to be eligible to take the GED tests. The battery consists of the five GED test areas—Language Arts, Reading; Language Arts, Writing; Science; Social Studies; Math. The tests are ½ the length of the actual tests and are good predictors of GED success.
GED	General Educational Development. The GED Testing Service is a program of the American Council on Education and has as its primary mission to provide a reliable vehicle, the “GED tests”, through which adults can certify that they possess the major and lasting outcomes of a traditional high school education. About one in seven high school diplomas

issued in the United States each year is based on passing the GED Tests; about one in twenty first-year college students is a GED graduate. The test battery consists of five areas—Language Arts, Reading; Language Arts, Writing; Science; Social Studies; Math. To pass the five-test battery, the GED candidate must currently demonstrate a level of skill that meets or surpasses that of approximately 60 percent of graduating high school seniors. Upon successful completion of the GED tests, a state high school credential is awarded.