



Forms E & F

LAS Links[®]



GRADES: K–12

ENGLISH FORMS E AND F

GRADE BANDS: K–1, 2–3, 4–5, 6–8, 9–12

ADMINISTRATION: ONLINE

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONAL FORMS

The LAS Links Operational Forms consist of existing items that have been modified based on educator feedback, items that have been field tested, and new items. Connecticut and Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) are releasing two new operational forms: Form E in 2024, and Form F in 2025.

ITEM AND DATA REVIEWS

Advisory committees comprised of teachers and educators from across the United States, including Connecticut, and test development experts conducted item reviews in 2018 and 2019. The purpose was to review LAS Links Forms C and D for strengths and provide suggestions for revisions. These meetings, along with additional third-party reviews, shaped DRC's development plan for the operational field tests.

An additional item review was conducted in 2020 with educators from Connecticut as well as the rest of the United States. Separate committees were convened for each grade band. Each participant provided feedback regarding bias, fairness, and sensitivity; alignment to the standards; and suitability for inclusion on the LAS Links test.

An item data review was conducted in the summer of 2022 with educators from Connecticut as well as the rest of the United States. Separate committees were convened for elementary grade bands and middle/high school grade bands. Informed by student response data, participants reviewed the items for bias, fairness, and sensitivity; alignment to the standards; and suitability for inclusion on the LAS Links test.

Educators and students can expect the following enhancements in the Forms E and F compared to previously tested LAS Links Forms C and D:

The LAS Links Forms E and F are aligned to the same English language proficiency (ELP) standards as Forms C and D. Although there were no major content changes, some adjustments were made to provide better alignment to current Connecticut ELP standards.

Adjustments to the Forms E and F incorporated the most current guidelines regarding bias, fairness, sensitivity, and accessibility for English learners. Examples of adjustments include:

- Content and graphics were adjusted to better reflect current English learner experiences.
- The format for items in the writing subtest was updated to allow both the stimulus paragraph and the items to appear on the same screen.
- Graphics were enhanced to be more reflective of current learning environments.

ONLINE TOOLS TRAINING FOR FORMS E AND F

There were no changes to the item types used in the Forms E and F, so students can practice using the tools and features with the same Online Tools Training used in prior administrations. Online Tools Training can be accessed [here](#) using Google Chrome.

UPDATED FORMAT FOR FORMS E AND F WRITING ITEM PAIRS

An example of the revised format for pairs of writing items using the same stimulus paragraph is provided below. This example reflects the content included in a pair of items in Grades 9–12 and demonstrates the enhanced student view that includes both the stimulus paragraph and the items on the same screen.

<p>Use Grammar and Conventions</p> <p>Directions: Read the letter. Choose the words that correctly complete the sentences.</p> <p>Hello Stacie,</p> <p>I have heard that you are interested in working as a crew member for the school play, <u>(1)</u> I am writing to tell you about available opportunities. You and I could help the construction crew build the set, or <u>(2)</u> could help with the lights and sound. Let me know which opportunity sounds better to you.</p> <p>Amanda</p>	<p>Which word correctly completes blank 1?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> a but</p> <p><input type="radio"/> b for</p> <p><input type="radio"/> c so</p> <p><input type="radio"/> d yet</p> <p>Which word correctly completes blank 2?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> a their</p> <p><input type="radio"/> b them</p> <p><input type="radio"/> c us</p> <p><input type="radio"/> d we</p>
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UPDATE FOR GRADE K READING ASSESSMENT BLUEPRINT OF FORMS E AND F

The item count for the Grade K Reading subskill area of Read School Texts has been reduced from ten to eight items. This change was made based on educator feedback indicating that some skills that are important to assess for first-grade students are beyond the appropriate expectations for kindergarten students. Additionally, student response data indicates that kindergarten students can be assessed reliably with fewer items in this subskill area.

UPDATE FOR GRADES K–1 WRITING ASSESSMENT OF FORMS E AND F

In the Start Writing section of the Grades K–1 assessment, there will be a difference between the print and the online forms for those items that ask students to “write” a number or write a letter. Online, students will be asked to “type” the number or type the letter. In print, they will continue to be asked to “write” the number or letter.

- The Start Writing items that ask students to look at a picture and write the word for that picture will have the same difference between print and online. Online, students will be asked to “type” the word for the picture in the box. In print, they will continue to be prompted to “write” the word on the line.
- The Start Writing items that currently ask students to copy a word or sentence will continue to use the word “copy” in both print and online.
- In all other sections of the writing assessment (including at other grade bands), the word “write” will continue to be used for both print and online, as we are referring to the cognitive process of crafting a response rather than the physical act of putting that response in the response area (in print or online).

ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE ADMINISTRATION OF EACH SUBTEST FOR FORMS E AND F

Although the LAS Links is an untimed test, the following table shows the estimated time to complete the administration of each subtest across grade bands of Forms E and F. These times remain the same as those used with the Forms E and F Operational Field Test that was administered in the spring of 2022 and 2023. At Grades K–1, for example, the inclusion of field-test items is balanced by the reduction in operational items; therefore, estimated testing times remain consistent with Forms C and D. Listening, Speaking, and Writing all have the same estimated administration times as the previous forms. Only Reading has an increased estimated administration time (increased by five minutes).

SUBTEST AREA	ESTIMATED TIME
Speaking	15 minutes—all grades
Listening	35 minutes—Grades K–1, 6–8, 9–12 30 minutes—Grades 2–3, 4–5
Reading	40 minutes—Grades K–1, 2–3, 4–5 50 minutes—Grades 6–8, 9–12 Constructed-response items were replaced with multiple-choice items.
Writing	30 minutes—Grades K–1 40 minutes—Grades 2–12

For scheduling purposes, these time allocations are recommended to complete the administration of each subtest and do not include setup, logins, etc.

READ ALOUD FUNCTIONALITY

The CSDE and DRC have posted the [LAS Links Read Aloud Functionality: Without the Text to Speech Accommodation](#) on the [website](#) to show what is read aloud when no accommodations are selected.

TEST DESIGN

LAS Links Forms E and F are organized by grade and skill area. Core operational items are also distinguished from embedded field-test items for test item review purposes. Embedded field-test items facilitate ongoing improvement and monitoring of the tests and enable the development of future LAS Links forms.

All new test forms for LAS Links will retain the same score scale as Forms C and D.

LAS LINKS FORMS E AND F TEST DESIGN				
Skill Area	# of Practice Items	# of OP Items	# of Embedded FT Items	Total # of Items (Practice + OP + FT)
Grades K-1				
Listening	2	20	3	25
Speaking	4	10 (8 for K)	3	17 (15 for K)
Reading	3	30 (24 for K)	4	37 (31 for K)
Writing	3	18 (14 for K)	3 (2 for K)	24 (19 for K)
Grades 2-3				
Listening	2	20	3	25
Speaking	4	12	3	19
Reading	3	30	5	38
Writing	2	17	3-4	22-23
Grades 4-5				
Listening	2	20	3	25
Speaking	4	12	3	19
Reading	2	30	6	38
Writing	2	17	3-4	22-23
Grades 6-8				
Listening	2	23	3	28
Speaking	4	12	3	19
Reading	2	30	6	38
Writing	2	17	3-4	22-23
Grades 9-12				
Listening	2	23	3	28
Speaking	4	12	3	19
Reading	2	30	6	38
Writing	2	17	3-4	22-23

STANDARDS VALIDATION AND CUT SCORE UPDATES

In January 2023, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) held a standards validation for LAS Links Forms E and F. The purpose of the workshop was to evaluate the current LAS Links cut scores for each proficiency level, and to determine whether they were valid for continued use in light of the updated Forms E and F. A committee of language educators from across the country were engaged in the Bookmark Standard Setting Procedure to evaluate the LAS Links cut scores.

During the online, six-day workshop, educators (a) discussed the expectations for students in each LAS Links proficiency level and (b) evaluated cut scores for each of the four domains: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Participants worked in five groups, with each group focused on a different grade span.

During DRC’s application of Bookmark procedure, educators made strong recommendations to adjust the Proficient and Above Proficient cut scores for kindergarten and Grade 1 Writing. The cut scores for Overall, Literacy, and Productive composites are also adjusted due to their inclusion of student Writing scores.

The following table summarizes the adjustments that will be made to LAS Links cuts scores for Forms E and F, beginning in the spring of 2023:

Cut Score Adjustments for LAS Links Forms E/F, Kindergarten and Grade 1 Writing

GRADE	CUT SCORE	WRITING	OVERALL	LITERACY	PRODUCTIVE
Kindergarten	Early Intermediate	347	389	351	388
	Intermediate	417	425	399	439
	Proficient	437	456	429	466
	Above Proficient	452	499	463	501
Grade 1	Early Intermediate	355	394	357	393
	Intermediate	435	433	410	448
	Proficient	470	466	446	483
	Above Proficient	498	512	488	524

*Adjusted cut scores are highlighted in blue. Note: cut scores will not be applied retroactively to spring 2022 results.

HOW SHOULD THE CUT SCORE ADJUSTMENTS BE INTERPRETED?

Importantly, there have been no changes to the common, domain-level score scales. Score scale ranges, in terms of the lowest and highest obtainable scores, and their interval measurement properties remain the same. The only changes that will be applied are to the kindergarten and Grade 1 Writing scores that mark the beginning of the Proficient and Above Proficient levels, and the composite scores to which Writing scores contribute—Overall, Literacy, and Productive. Also, these cut score adjustments effectively change the score ranges for kindergarten and Grade 1 Writing that define the Early Intermediate, Proficient, and Above Proficient scale score ranges on the LAS Links® Common Score Scale. As the Proficient and Above Proficient cut scores for Forms E and F are now lower than historically, it is reasonable to expect that more students taking these forms in kindergarten and Grade 1 will meet Proficiency and Above Proficiency expectations based on their Writing test scores.

Further, there is an impact to how trends can be interpreted between 2023 and prior years. For example, year-to-year changes in the percent of Early Intermediate, Proficient, and Above Proficient in Writing, Overall, Literacy, and Productive for kindergarten and Grade 1 students are not comparable, so changes in the percent of students in these grade levels and domains should not be interpreted directly. Likewise, interpretations about student growth toward proficiency targets will need to be adjusted relative to the new score ranges that bound Writing proficiency in kindergarten and Grade 1. For example, student progress toward proficiency for those who were in kindergarten in 2021 or 2022 is likely to appear more rapidly than expected using their past growth targets. Growth should only be interpreted relative to targets that are updated based on the adjusted cut scores.

LAS LINKS FORMS E AND F BLUEPRINT

The operational blueprint for LAS Links Forms E and F is shown in the following table. The blueprint is organized by skill area, language context strand, and subskill area. Operational item counts for each grade are shown, and multiple-choice (MC) items are distinguished from constructed-response (CR) items. All new test forms for LAS Links will retain the same score scale as Forms C and D.

LAS LINKS FORMS E AND F OPERATIONAL BLUEPRINT

Skill Area	Language Context Strand	Subskill Area	K-1 # of Items	2-3 # of Items	4-5 # of Items	6-8 # of Items	9-12 # of Items	Item Type
Listening	Social, Intercultural, and Instructional Communication	Listen for Information	8	8	8	9	9	MC
		Language Arts/Social Studies/History	Listen for Academic Instruction	2	3	3	3	
	Mathematics/Science/Technical Subjects	Listen for Information	4	3	3	4	4	
		Listen for Academic Instruction	2	3	3	3	3	
		Listen for Information	4	3	3	4	4	
Total	20	20	20	23	23			
Speaking	Social, Intercultural, and Instructional Communication	Make Conversation	1	1	1	1	1	CR
		Describe and Request Information	2	2	2	2	2	
		Tell a Story	1	1	1	1	1	
	Language Arts/Social Studies/History	Use Academic Words	1	1	1	1	1	
		Present and Explain Information	2 (1 for K)	3	3	3	3	
	Mathematics/Science/Technical Subjects	Use Academic Words	1	1	1	1	1	
		Present and Explain Information	2 (1 for K)	3	3	3	3	
Total	10 (8 for K)	12	12	12	12	12		
Reading	Foundational Skills	Read Words	12	6	N/A	N/A	N/A	MC
	Social, Intercultural, and Instructional Communication	Read School Texts	10 (8 for K)	10	14	14	14	
		Language Arts/Social Studies/History	Read Academic Texts	2	5	6	6	
	Mathematics/Science/Technical Subjects	Read School Texts (Gr. 1-12 only)	2 (N/A for K)	2	2	2	2	
		Read Academic Texts	2	5	6	6	6	
		Read School Texts (Gr. 1-12 only)	2 (N/A for K)	2	2	2	2	
Total	30 (24 for K)	30	30	30	30	30		
Writing	Foundational Skills	Start Writing	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Auto CR
			5					CR
	Social, Intercultural, and Instructional Communication	Use Grammar and Conventions	4	6	6	6	6	MC
		Write to Express Ideas	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	CR (0-3)
			N/A	1	1	1	1	CR (0-4)
	Language Arts/Social Studies/History	Use Grammar and Conventions	1	2	2	2	2	MC
		Write Academic Texts (Gr. 1-12 only)	2 (N/A for K)	3	3	3	3	CR
	Mathematics/Science/Technical Subjects	Use Grammar and Conventions	1	2	2	2	2	MC
Write Academic Texts (Gr. 1-12 only)		2 (N/A for K)	3	3	3	3	CR	
Total	18 (14 for K)	17	17	17	17	17		

