



American Sign Language (ASL) Assessments

The language assessment committee has agreed upon [five assessments](#) to be used for the next five years, starting with the 2022-2023 school year. [Additional information](#), such as the type, age range, cost, qualifications to assess, etc., is included for each assessment.



[TEC §29.316\(a\)\(3\)](#): “Language acquisition” includes expressive and receptive language acquisition and literacy development in English, American Sign Language, or both, or if applicable, in another language primarily used by the child’s parent or guardian and is separate from any modality used to communicate in the applicable language or languages.”

Currently, there is no expressive ASL assessment for students 6 – 8 years of age on the assessment list to satisfy [TEC §29.316](#). Local education agencies (LEAs) may use the Visual Communication Sign Language (VCSL) checklist for students ages 6 – 8. Although this checklist is not intended for use with students in this age group, it can be a valuable tool to identify potential gaps in language development in conjunction with the American Sign Language Assessment (ASLA) for the receptive portion of ASL. However, for the purpose of reporting data for Texas Student Data System (TSDS) Special Education Language Acquisition (SELA), LEAs should only report the results of the ASLA for students 6 – 8 years of age.

 American Sign Language Assessment (ASLA)	 Visual Communication Sign Language (VCSL) Checklist
Receptive assessment only	Expressive assessment primarily
Age range 4 – 21	Age range 0 – 5

Best Practice:



- For all ASL assessments, LEAs should work with fluent signers as per each assessment guideline (preferably near-native ASL signers).
- ASL assessments are not to be used for students who use Signing Exact English (SEE), Conceptually Accurate Signed English (CASE), or any other sign system. It is recommended that those students be given an English assessment.

Resources:



- [ASLA](#) ASL Education Center
- [VCSL](#) Gallaudet University
- [FAQ](#) for VCSL Checklist

March 2023

English Assessments

All English assessments are available in English and Spanish except for Oral and Written Language Scales Second Edition (OWLS II) which measures a student’s oral and written English skills. OWLS II is best administered to students who are deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) who utilize spoken English for communication.

If a DHH student utilizes Spanish for communication, it is recommended that the Cottage Acquisition Scales for Listening, Language, and Speech (CASLLS) be given. If the DHH student utilizes Spanish for communication and has additional disabilities, it is recommended that the Communication Matrix be given.

 Cottage Acquisition Scales for Listening, Language, and Speech (CASLLS) and Communication Matrix	 Oral and Written Language Scales (OWLS) II
English and Spanish	English only
Administered by a teacher of the DHH, itinerant teacher, or a speech-language pathologist (SLP)	Administered by a teacher of the DHH, itinerant teacher, or an SLP (with certain stipulations)

Best Practice:



- For OWLS II, allow the SLP to administer for the purpose of ensuring that valid results are being collected.
- For DHH students who use SEE, CASE, or any other sign system (not ASL), it is recommended that the student is assessed using the English assessments above.

Resources:

- [CASLLS](#) Sunshine Cottage
- [Communication Matrix](#) Design to Learn Projects
- [OWLS II](#) Pearson