TOEIC Bridge® Pilot Study Details

Thank you for your interest in the TOEIC Bridge® pilot study! We are inviting current ESL educators and students enrolled in adult ESL programs to consider participating in this pilot study.

If you are interested in participating, please email Marquetta Vital at Marquetta.Vital@psionline.com.

If you have questions, please email the project manager, Renka Ohta, at rohta@ets.org and/or lead investigator, Jonathan Schmidgall, at jschmidgall@ets.org.

Purpose of the pilot study

ETS researchers are conducting a pilot study to gather evidence about the usefulness of TOEIC Bridge® test scores for adult education ESL students. The results of the study will be reviewed by the U.S. Department of Education as part of its evaluation of whether TOEIC Bridge tests are suitable for use by the National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS).

The TOEIC Bridge® tests assess listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills for English learners in daily life and general workplace contexts. In previous research studies, ETS mapped TOEIC Bridge test scores to NRS EFL for ESL levels (1 to 4) and CEFR levels (A1 to B1). In this study, we will examine the reliability of test scores across forms, the usefulness of test scores for tracking learning gains, and how test scores relate to other information about ESL students' English proficiency, such as other standardized test scores and teacher judgment of student ability.

We are inviting ESL educators and their adult education ESL students to participate in the pilot study.

What are the TOEIC Bridge® tests?

The TOEIC Bridge® tests were designed for beginning to intermediate English learners. They measure English skills used in everyday and general workplace situations and are informed by widely used language proficiency frameworks, such as the CEFR, ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines, and Canadian Language Benchmarks. Previous ETS research has linked TOEIC Bridge scores to NRS Educational Functioning Levels for ESL, Levels 1–4. This pilot study will gather additional evidence about the interpretation and use of TOEIC Bridge scores for assessing the proficiency of adult education ESL students.

For this study, students will take two versions of the TOEIC Bridge® tests: Form A and Form B. Each form includes Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing tests.

Please see the following resources for more details about the test format and content.

About the TOEIC Bridge® Tests

The following resources provide additional information on sample test questions and scoring.

Listening and Reading tests (see pp. 12–19):

TOEIC Bridge® L&R Examinee Handbook

Speaking and Writing tests (see pp. 12–31):

TOEIC Bridge® S&W Examinee Handbook

TOEIC Bridge® test testing time

Skill	Test time
Listening	25 minutes
Reading	35 minutes
Speaking	15 minutes
Writing	37 minutes
Total	**112 minutes**

For this pilot study, the **Listening and Reading** sections will be administered together in one session, and the **Speaking and Writing** sections will be administered together in a separate session.

TOEIC Bridge® test tests and the NRS EFL Descriptors for ESL

Results from a 2025 pilot study indicated that the TOEIC Bridge tests reflect the core language knowledge, skills, and tasks described in the NRS EFL Descriptors for ESL (see Wolf & Ohta, 2026). Results of a criterion-related validity study conducted in 2025 suggested that the TOEIC Bridge tests were promising tools for assessing ESL learners' proficiency and progress in adult education programs participating in the NRS (see Wolf, Ohta, & Schmidgall, forthcoming). Finally, a standard setting study was conducted and supported the following mapping of TOEIC Bridge test scores to NRS Educational Functioning Levels for ESL (see Schmidgall, Hille, & Ohta, forthcoming).

TOEIC Bridge Test	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Listening	15 – 17	18 – 27	28 – 38	39 – 50
Reading	15 – 18	19 – 28	29 – 39	40 – 50
Speaking	15 – 18	19 – 25	26 – 37	38 – 50
Writing	15	16 – 20	21 – 37	38 – 50

This mapping table can be used to understand how TOEIC Bridge test scores relate to NRS EFL for ESL, but TOEIC Bridge test scores are currently not certified for reporting purposes.

Potential Benefits for Participants

Both educators and students can use TOEIC Bridge® score reports to better understand students' English skills in listening, reading, speaking, and writing.

Score reports can help

- identify students' strengths and areas for growth across listening, reading, speaking, and writing and
- identify students' proficiency levels in relation to international standards (CEFR A1 to B1) and NRS EFL for ESL levels (1 to 4).

Educators may use this information to support instructional planning, and students may use it to understand their strengths and areas for growth. Students will also receive official TOEIC Bridge® score reports and gain experience completing communication tasks in English related to everyday and general workplace situations.

Tasks for students

Participating ESL students will be asked to do the following study activities:

- Take two TOEIC Bridge® test forms under educator supervision (approximately four hours in total)
- Complete an online student survey after each test (approximately twenty minutes per survey)

Before testing begins, students will be asked to read and sign the study consent form. Students will receive official TOEIC Bridge score reports after scoring is complete.

Tasks for educators

Participating ESL educators will help coordinate the study in their program and complete the following activities. These activities are expected to take approximately eight to ten hours total.

- Explain the study to ESL students (using summary material we provide) and share participation information with interested students
- Inform the ETS research team of the number of students who are interested in participating
- Coordinate test administration and monitor students' completion of the two TOEIC Bridge® test forms and the online student survey
- Complete an educator survey
- Provide the ETS research team with information about participating students' overall English proficiency levels and any available standardized English test scores. Students' consent to share existing standardized test scores will be requested through the student consent form.

Testing periods

Test administration can occur at any time **between September 8, 2026, and May 31, 2027**. Participating educators and the ETS research team will work together to choose dates that fit a program's schedule. Because students will take two TOEIC Bridge® test forms, programs may choose one of two scheduling options.

Scheduling Option	Example schedule
Option 1: Students take Form A and Form B close together, such as during two consecutive weeks. This option is used to compare students' scores across two test forms taken close together.	- Students take TOEIC Bridge Form A during the week of September 14, 2026. - Students take TOEIC Bridge Form B during the week of September 21, 2026.
Option 2: Students take Form A before a period of instruction, and Form B after completing at least 40 hours of instruction.	- Students take TOEIC Bridge Form A during the week of September 14, 2026. - Students take TOEIC Bridge Form B during the week of December 7, 2026.

In either option, each TOEIC Bridge form will include listening, reading, speaking, and writing.

Compensation for students

Participating students will receive a $100 electronic gift card if they complete all the following activities:
☑ Take TOEIC Bridge® Form A (Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing)
☑ Take TOEIC Bridge® Form B (Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing)
☑ Complete the online student survey after Form A
☑ Complete the online student survey after Form B

Students must complete both test forms and the student surveys to receive the gift card. Gift cards will be sent electronically within three weeks after ETS confirms completion of both test forms and the student surveys.

If completing all four sections is not feasible, students will receive a $50 gift card if they complete the following activities:

☑ Complete two skill sections of TOEIC Bridge® Form A (either Listening/Reading or Speaking/Writing)
☑ Complete two skill sections of TOEIC Bridge® Form B (either Listening/Reading or Speaking/Writing)
☑ Complete the online student survey after Form A
☑ Complete the online student survey after Form B

Listening and Reading must be completed together as one set, and **Speaking and Writing** must be completed together as another set. Other skill combinations, such as Listening and Speaking, are not permitted.

Tremendous® gift card

Gift cards will be sent by email through Tremendous®, a third-party vendor. Tremendous allows recipients to choose a gift card from a wide range of retailers. The ETS research team deposits funds into a Tremendous account for each recipient, so students can select the retailer they prefer. After students make a selection, a card number or gift card code will appear on the screen for them to use for purchases.

For more information, visit https://www.tremendous.com/. To view available gift card options, go to "Catalog" in the top menu and select "Full Catalog".

To try a demo, go to **Product > Product Tours > Receiving Tour > Start the Tour** to send a sample gift card to your email address.

Benefits of participation for teachers

We recognize that participating in this study involves your time and professional expertise. Participating teachers receive both compensation and documentation of professional development activities.

1. Compensation

All participating teachers will receive compensation for their time and effort in coordinating study activities (recruiting students, scheduling test sessions, and monitoring participation). Educators may choose one of three compensation options. The amount of compensation depends on the number of participating students. To be eligible for Option 2, you must be a U.S. citizen or a U.S. permanent resident.

Option	Item	# of students	You will receive
Option 1	HiSET® test voucher	5–20 students	One full HiSET test battery
		21+ students	Two full HiSET test batteries
Option 2	Monetary compensation via direct deposit (not available to educators in California)	5–15 students	$250.00
		16–30 students	$300.00
		31+ students	$350.00
Option 3		5–15 students	One full HiSET test battery + $50 gift card

	Combination of HiSET® test voucher and gift card compensation	16–30 students	One full HiSET test battery + $100 gift card
		31+ students	Two full HiSET test batteries + $50 gift card

One full HiSET® test battery includes five subtests. Details about voucher amounts, monetary compensation, eligible recipients, and timing will be confirmed before educators or programs finalize participation.

Please note that compensation is expected to take approximately two months for direct deposit and three weeks for gift cards.

2. Professional development documentation for educators

As part of the study, educators will engage in assessment literacy activities drawing on their professional judgment as adult ESL educators. Upon completion of the study, educators will receive a professional development certificate from the ETS Research team documenting these activities and the hours completed.

Participation steps and timeline

If you are interested in participating, the steps below explain what you can expect before, during, and after the study.

Process for enrolling and necessary paperwork

Before we can share study materials, including the test administration guide and student test IDs, the required paperwork must be completed. This process takes approximately two weeks.

1. Contact Marquetta Vital at Marquetta.Vital@psionline.com to indicate your interest in participating.
2. You will receive a link to the Educator Consent Form.
3. Review and sign the Educator Consent Form.
4. You will receive an agreement between you and ETS, along with a Direct Deposit Form, if applicable.
5. Review and sign the agreement, complete the Direct Deposit Form, and return the required documents to ETS.

Process during the pilot study

After the paperwork is complete, you can begin the pilot study activities. The timeline may range from about one week to several months, depending on the test administration option you choose. Under **Option 1, the Test-Retest option**, the two TOEIC Bridge® test forms can be scheduled and administered close together. Under **Option 2, the Pre- and Post-Test option**, students must receive at least 40 hours of instruction after Test 1 and before Test 2. The pilot study involves the following tasks.

1. Receive a welcome email from the ETS research team containing study materials and instructions.
2. Recruit interested students by sharing the student flyer and study information.
3. Coordinate with participating students to schedule Test 1.
4. Submit the Test ID Request Form at least two business days before the scheduled test date. The form link will be included in the welcome email.
5. Review the test in advance.
6. Ensure that participating students review and sign the Student Consent Form before testing begins.
7. Administer Test 1 to participating students.
8. Share the online Student Survey link with students after Test 1 and follow up to ensure they complete it.
9. Share score reports with students.
10. Repeat the scheduling, test ID request, testing, and survey steps for Test 2.

Wrap up of the pilot study

After students have completed both TOEIC Bridge® test forms and the student surveys, you will complete the final study tasks.

1. Complete and submit the educator rating form and a survey.
2. Follow up with students, if needed, about delivery of their electronic gift cards.

Test ID expiration

TOEIC Bridge® Listening and Reading test IDs remain valid until the end of the pilot study, and scoring is completed immediately.

TOEIC Bridge® Speaking and Writing test IDs are valid for one week, from Monday through Sunday. If the scheduled test date changes after the IDs have been issued, please submit the Test ID Request Form again as the original IDs will no longer be valid.

All Speaking and Writing test responses submitted during that period will be sent for scoring on Sunday, so responses submitted earlier in the week, such as on Wednesday, will not be scored until the test ID expires.

Example testing windows

The table below provides an example test administration period for Speaking and Writing.

	Mon	**Tue**	**Wed**	**Thu**	**Fri**	**Sat**	**Sun**
Week 1	9/7	9/8	9/9	9/10	9/11	9/12	9/13
Week 2	9/14	9/15	9/16	9/17	9/18	9/19	9/20
Week 3	9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26	9/27
Week 4	9/28	9/29	9/30	10/1	10/2	10/3	10/4

Score reports

Score report timelines vary by skill area. Listening and Reading reports are available within two weeks of the test date, while Speaking and Writing score reports are available within three weeks after the test ID expires. Score reports will be sent to educators, who will then distribute them to students.

Frequently asked questions

Student eligibility and participation

1. Can a small program participate if fewer than 5 students are available to take the TOEIC Bridge tests?
Unfortunately, no. We are prioritizing programs with at least five participants to ensure the study can be managed efficiently within the available resources and timeline. Small programs may contact Marquetta Vital at Marquetta.Vital@psionline.com to be waitlisted and considered for participation on a case by case basis.

2. I participated in the previous pilot study in 2025. Can students who took the TOEIC Bridge® test then participate again this year?
Yes. Students who participated in the 2025 pilot study may participate again in this year's pilot study.

3. Can true beginners or lower-level students participate?
Yes. Some tasks are designed for true beginners, such as students at NRS Level 1, because they focus on simple vocabulary and basic grammatical structures. However, more than half of the tasks may be challenging for these students. Test instructions are provided in English, so true beginners may have difficulty understanding them. The instructions are also included in the Teachers' Guide, and teachers may provide translations as needed.

4. Is this pilot study for ESL programs only, or can general adult education students participate?
This pilot study is specifically for ESL educators and students. We are looking for ESL students to take English language proficiency tests, so native English-speaking students, or students who have already graduated from an ESL program, should not be invited to participate.

Study materials and communication

1. Do you offer a video for students that explains what they are signing up for?
Yes, we have a short video in both English and Spanish that explains the study requirements to students.

2. Do you offer translations for the study materials?
We offer the Student Flyer, Student Consent Form, and Student Survey in English, Spanish, French, and Japanese. The Student Flyer and Student Consent Form are also available in Bengali.

Test format, administration, and scheduling

1. How is the TOEIC Bridge® test administered online?
Teachers will receive test authorization codes to provide to students at the time of testing, along with a link to the test platform. The tests can be launched in one of two ways: by downloading the TOEIC® Secure Browser or by using a web browser. The TOEIC® Secure Browser locks the computer and prevents access to other applications during testing. If the web browser option is used, students may use Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Safari; however, Safari cannot be used for the Speaking test.

2. Why do educators need to proctor the tests? Why can't I ask students to take the test at home?
Tests must be proctored so students can receive support if they encounter technical issues or need help accessing the online test.

3. What is the difference between a "form" and a "section"?
A form refers to a complete version of the test, comprising all four skill areas: listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Thus, if students complete two forms of the TOEIC Bridge® test, they complete two full sets of the test parts. In contrast, a section refers to an individual component of the test that measures a specific language skill, such as Listening or Reading.

4. Do you offer paper-based tests?
No. For the purposes of this pilot study, the TOEIC Bridge® tests will be offered online only.

5. Is it possible to complete all four skill sections in one day?
We do not recommend completing all four skill sections in one day. Students will need extra time to set up their computers, log in to the system, and resolve any technical issues, so it may be difficult to complete all four sections within the available time.

6. Which skill sections do you recommend for beginner students?
We typically recommend the Listening and Reading sections for beginner students because these receptive skills may feel less intimidating. However, the best choice may depend on students' backgrounds and strengths. For example, some students may be more comfortable with oral language tasks. Regardless, research has shown that all four TOEIC Bridge tests align with the lower levels of proficiency (i.e., NRS Levels 1 and 2).

7. Should the tests be administered by class instructors or assessment coordinators?
Programs may decide who should proctor the tests. If class instructors proctor the tests, it may be easier for them to complete the teacher ratings because they are familiar with students' current English proficiency levels. If assessment coordinators proctor the tests, they will need to collect the necessary information from instructors to complete the Teacher Rating Form. Teacher compensation will be provided to the person who proctors the tests.

8. Is it okay to administer the tests to students on a staggered schedule?
Yes. You may schedule the tests in any way that works best for your program. Students may participate in one session or across multiple sessions.

9. How many students can be tested at one time?
We recommend testing no more than 20 students with one teacher, since teacher support is important during test administration. If more than 20 students need to test, we recommend dividing them into two sessions.

10. Does every student need a headset? If so, do you provide one?
Yes. Each student needs a headset to take the TOEIC Bridge® test. Please contact us if you need assistance with headsets.

11. Can we use Chromebooks for testing?
Yes, you may use Chromebooks.

12. If we choose the Pre- and Post-Test administration option, do we need to provide documentation of the instructional time students complete between the two tests?
No. The instructional time is self-reported.

13. What training is required for teachers before test administration?
After teacher enrollment is complete, we will send a welcome email with detailed instructions. Teachers should carefully read the Teachers' Guide and use the Teacher Test ID to review the test and become familiar with the test itself.

14. I chose test administration Option 1: Test-Retest. However, my students did not attend Test 2 as scheduled. What should I do?
If students are unable to complete Test 1 and Test 2 within a short period, ideally about one week, please let us know as soon as possible. Depending on the amount of instruction that has taken place for the students affected, they may still be able to take Test 2 after more than one week. Students may also be able to switch from the Test-Retest option to the Pre- and Post-Test option if they can take Test 2 after completing 40 hours of instruction.

Privacy, data, and score reports

1. How will students' privacy be protected?
Protecting students' privacy is a top priority. When accessing the TOEIC Bridge® tests, students will be asked to provide their first and last name, date of birth, gender, native country, and native language in the profile section. Such information will be used for score reports. We will also collect students' email addresses to deliver gift cards electronically. All collected data will be stored on an ETS-owned, password-protected computer and will be accessible only to authorized ETS staff. We will not disclose participant information to external entities or individuals. Student names and contact information will be removed before data analysis, and no individual students will be identified in reports of the pilot study results.

2. Will teachers receive students' test results?

Yes. Teachers will receive an Excel spreadsheet with test results for all students who completed the tests under their supervision.

3. Is the mapping of TOEIC Bridge® test scores to NRS levels publicly available?
The standard-setting study that mapped TOEIC Bridge test scores to NRS levels has not yet been published. However, we may be able to share a draft report upon request.

Compensation

1. What happens if a student completes one test form but not the other?
Students may withdraw from the study at any time, including after completing the first test form. However, students who do not complete both test forms and surveys will not receive compensation, and their data will be discarded.

2. Why can physical gift cards NOT be given to students?
We use Tremendous® electronic gift cards instead of physical gift cards because physical cards can be lost and cannot be replaced. In addition, unused physical gift cards must be returned to ETS, which creates extra work for teachers.

3. Could you share additional details on how the electronic gift card works?
Delivery of the gift card is handled by a company called Tremendous®. Please tell students to watch their inbox for a message from rewards@reward.tremendous.com. Sometimes, the email may be filtered into a spam or junk folder, so please ask students to check those folders as well.

4. Do you provide GED® vouchers as teacher compensation?
No. We offer HiSET® test vouchers only.

5. How much will the TOEIC Bridge® tests cost once they are approved and implemented?
We work with institutions to discuss pricing options based on their needs.

6. How does teacher compensation work if I administer the TOEIC Bridge® tests to different groups of students in fall 2026 and spring 2027?
Teacher compensation is provided each semester in which you administer the TOEIC Bridge tests. Therefore, if you administer the tests to one group in fall 2026 and another group in spring 2027, you are eligible for compensation for each semester. Please contact us if your program follows a different schedule.