NRS Tips:
Quick Review of the 2024 NRS Table Changes

Introduction

Every 3 years, the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE), part of the U.S. Department of Education, reviews and updates its information collection requests for the National Reporting System (NRS) for adult education. In making these revisions, OCTAE considers the impact of any changes on state adult education programs. Ultimately, OCTAE aims to reduce the reporting burden by balancing the addition of requests for information with the removal of redundant, outdated, or unnecessary requests.

This NRS Tips reviews changes to NRS tables resulting from renewal of the information collection in spring 2024 for reporting beginning in October 2024.[1] It also explains how these changes expand reporting on measurable skills gains (MSGs) and what that means for data validation requirements.

Overview of Changes

Changes	Description
New Categories for Reporting Participant Sex[2] on Tables 1, 2, and 2A	New response options have been added: *Non-binary* and *No Answer*.
New Option and Reporting Rows for Educational Functioning Level (EFL) Placement of Participants on Tables 1, 4, 4A, and 4C	New options for EFL placement and *Alternative Placement* reporting rows have been added to the ABE and ESL sections. These options are at the state's sole discretion.
Consolidation of Secondary Credential Rows on Tables 5, 5A, 8, 9, 10, and 11	The two rows for reporting the *Attainment of a Secondary School Diploma* have been consolidated into one row.
Revised Column Headers and New Reporting Columns and Rows on Table 14	- The column headers have been revised by type of subrecipient funding (i.e., Sections 231 and 243). - A column has been added for providers funded by Sections 231 and 243 of WIOA. - A system-calculated column has been added for the total of all providers and funding types. - An optional row has been added for reporting other agencies.

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[1] For details on the information clearance and approved forms, see https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAViewIC?ref_nbr=202307-1830-001&icID=21717.

[2] The term "sex" is used for this data element rather than "gender" to align with the language in section 116 (d)(2)(B) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Section 116 (d)(2)(B) requires information specifying the levels of performance achieved with respect to the primary indicators of performance for each of the core programs be disaggregated by each subpopulation of individuals with barriers to employment, and by race, ethnicity, sex, and age.

Changes	Description
	• A row has been added for the URL for the state directory of local providers. • A column for reporting subrecipients that is no longer necessary has been deleted.
Revised Table Titles on Tables 4A, 4B, 5, 5A, and 8; **Revised Column Headers** on Tables 4, 4A, and 4C; Revised Indicator Rows on Table 11	• The words *Exit-Based* have been added to certain table titles. • The word *Achievement* has been added to certain table titles. • The MSG type numbering system and clarifying language edits have been incorporated into certain column headers and indicator rows.

New Categories Available for Reporting Participant Sex on Tables 1, 2, and 2A

Non-binary and No Answer. These options are available on the updated tables but may be left blank if the state does not use the new categories in its data collection.

- Two new categories for reporting participant sex have been added:

- Non-binary: The participant identifies with being nonbinary or another gender.

- No Answer: The participant prefers not to answer.

New Categories Available for Reporting Participant Sex

Entering Educational Functioning Level (EFL)	American Indian or Alaska Native				Asian			
	Male	Female	Non-binary	No Answer	Male	Female	Non-binary	No Answer
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)

Source: Sample excerpt from NRS Table 1

New Options and Reporting Rows for Educational Functioning Level (EFL) Placement of Participants on Tables 1, 4, 4A, and 4C

New "Alternative Placement" rows have been added separately for the ABE and ESL sections on Tables 1, 4, 4A, and 4C to accommodate the new placement flexibility allowed for programs designed to result in MSG types other than EFL gains based on pre- and post-testing using an NRS approved assessment (MSG Type 1a). This option will be available only at the state's sole discretion. Revisions have been made to the notes for Table 1 to clarify instructions for alternative EFL placement and to specify that participants with an alternative placement should be removed from the post-test denominator when calculating the state's post-test rate.

> *At the state's sole discretion, and as documented in the state's assessment policy, states may exempt participants from NRS pre- and post-testing who are enrolled in programs designed to yield the following outcomes under the MSG indicator, as described in OCTAE Program Memorandum 17-2.[3]*

MSG Types Other Than EFL Gains Based on Pre- and Post-testing

MSG Type 1b	**Awarding** of credits or Carnegie units
MSG Type 1c	**Enrolled in** postsecondary education and training *after* exit
MSG Type 2	**Documented attainment** of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent
MSG Type 3	**Secondary or postsecondary transcript or report card** for sufficient credit hours that shows a participant is meeting the state unit's academic standards
MSG Type 4	**Satisfactory or better progress report,** toward established milestones, from an employer or training provider who is providing training
MSG Type 5	**Successfully passing an exam** that is required for a particular occupation or progress in attaining technical or occupational skills, as evidenced by trade-related benchmarks

For these types of programs, states may develop and implement alternative options for EFL placement and reporting on the "alternative placement" rows. For example, a state may use assessments that are content- or performance-driven such as locator tests, criterion referenced tests, diagnostic assessments, authentic assessments, or a state may choose to develop and implement innovative crosswalks between program benchmarks and NRS EFL levels.

The reporting of outcomes for participants in such programs must follow the data collection and validation requirements for the specific MSG type, as described in OCTAE Program Memorandum 19-1.[4] States are not required to implement alternative placement options and may continue to use pre- and post-testing for placement for programs yielding all MSG types.

Alternate ABE/ESL Placement

ABE Level 1	
ABE Level 2	
ABE Level 3	
ABE Level 4	
ABE Level 5	
ABE Level 6	
Alternative ABE Placement	

ESL Level 1
ESL Level 2
ESL Level 3
ESL Level 4
ESL Level 5
ESL Level 6
Alternative ESL Placement

Source: Sample excerpt from NRS Table 4

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[3] https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/octae-program-memo-17-2.pdf
[4] https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/octae-program-memo-19-1.pdf

Consolidation of Secondary Credential Rows on Tables 5, 5A, 8, 9, 10, and 11

The rows for reporting the attainment of a secondary school diploma have been consolidated on NRS Tables 5A, 8, 9, 10, and 11. To provide greater clarity for reporting secondary school diploma outcomes and to improve the accuracy and ease of data entry, two rows are combined into one row on Table 5 and renamed "Attained a Secondary School Diploma/Recognized Equivalent and Employed or Enrolled in Postsecondary Education or Training within one year of exit."

The row header in Column A on the last row of Table 5 has been revised to "Attained a Recognized Secondary OR Postsecondary Credential (unduplicated)."

Consolidation of Secondary Credential Rows and Revised Unduplicated Credential Row

Primary Indicators of Performance
(A)
Attained a Secondary School/Diploma/ Recognized Equivalent and Employed or Enrolled in Postsecondary Education or Training within one year of exit***
Attained a Recognized Postsecondary Credential while enrolled or within one year of exit****
Attained a Recognized Secondary OR Postsecondary Credential (unduplicated)*****

Source: Sample excerpt from NRS Table 5

Table 14 Disaggregation of Provider Funding Source and Additional Reporting

Table 14 has been revised to add columns to break out reporting by type of funding (Sections 231 and 243). An existing total column was deleted, and a new automatically calculated column has been added, which the NRS database will populate with the total number of providers. The header for Column H and the instructions have been revised to specify that only state matching funds should be reported. *Title II* was added to the WIOA Funding column. Clarity for the State Funds column also was provided with the column header additions of *Matching* and *Section 222b*.

Two rows have been added for reporting on *Tribal Organization* and for a URL to a state website listing local providers.

Table 14 Reporting by Funding Type

Provider Agency * (A)	Total Number of Providers Who ONLY Receive Funds under Section 231 (B)	Total Number of Providers Who ONLY Receive Funds under Section 243 (IELCE) (C)	Total Number of Providers Who Receive Funds under Section 231 AND Section 243 (D)	Total Number of Providers (Columns B+C+D) (auto calculated) (E)	WIOA Title II Funding		State Matching Funds Section 222(b)	
					Total (F)	% of Total (G)	Total (H)	% of Total (I)
Other Institutions of Higher Education								
Other Agencies								
Correctional Institutions								
Other Institutions (non-correctional)								
Tribal Government or Organization								
All Other Agencies								
Other								
Fillable field								
Total								
Website Address for Online State Directory of Providers:								

Source: Sample excerpt from NRS Table 14

Revised Table Titles

- Specification of MSG types 1a, 1b, and 1c have been added to the Table 4A title.
- Specification of MSG type 1a has been added to the Table 4B title.
- The words "Exit-Based" have been added to Table 5 and 5A titles.
- The word "Achievement" was added to the Table 8 title to align with program-specific tables.

Revised Column Headers

The MSG type numbering system and clarifying language edits have been incorporated into the column headers and instructions for Tables 4, 4A, 4B, 4C, and 11.

MSG Type Numbering System Addition

First Period of Participation			All Periods of Participation		
Number who achieved at least one EFL gain (MSG types 1a, 1b, 1c) (E)	Number who attained a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (MSG type 2) (F)	Number of IET or workplace literacy participants who achieved an MSG via transcript, milestones, or exam (MSG types 3, 4, 5) (G)	Total number of Periods of Participation in which Participants achieved at least one EFL gain (MSG types 1a, 1b, 1c) (L)	Total number of Periods of Participation in which a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent was attained (MSG type 2) (M)	Total number of IET or workplace literacy participants who achieved an MSG via transcript, milestones, or exam (MSG types 3, 4, 5) (N)

Source: Sample excerpt from NRS Table 4

Timeline

The proposed revisions will be implemented according to the following timeline:

Changes	Timeline for Implementation
New Categories Available for Reporting Participant Sex on Tables 1, 2, and 2A	Available for reports submitted October 1, 2024, and for program years thereafter.
New Option and Reporting Rows for Educational Functioning Level Placement of Participants on Tables 1, 4, 4A, and 4C	Available at state's sole discretion, beginning with annual reports submitted October 1, 2024, and for program years thereafter.
Consolidation of Secondary Credential Rows on Tables 5, 5A, 8, 9, 10, 11	Required for reports submitted October 1, 2024.
Revised Column Headers and New Reporting Columns and Rows on Table 14	Required for reports submitted October 1, 2024.

OCTAE will continue to provide technical assistance to states to support their planning and implementation efforts and to ensure compliance with the statute, regulations, and joint performance accountability requirements.

Resources

National Reporting System for Adult Education. (2023, November). Information collection request (OMB Control Number 1830-0027): Responses to public comments received during the 60-day notice. https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/DownloadDocument?objectID=137497501

National Reporting System for Adult Education. (2024, January). Information collection request (OMB Control Number 1830-0027): Responses to public comments received during the 30-day notice. https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/DownloadDocument?objectID=138899901

Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education. (2018, December 19). Program memorandum OCTAE 19-1. U.S. Department of Education. https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/octae-program-memo-19-1.pdf

Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education. (2022, September 15). Program memorandum OCTAE 17-2. U.S. Department of Education. https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/octae-program-memo-17-2.pdf

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. (2024). NRS Instrument. U.S. General Services Administration, Office of Management and Budget. https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAViewIC?ref_nbr=202307-1830-001&icID=21717