

TOEFL Updates for the FSBPT CBA

Jan 20, 2026

What we've known

- Educational Testing Service (ETS) redesigned the TOEFL, re-launches Jan 21, 2026 tomorrow
 - Adaptive, better experience
 - More secure
 - New scoring scale, aligns better with Common European Framework of Reference
 - Provided a crosswalk between old scores and new scores by range
 - Promised to support old scores for two years
- HRSA (USCIS) has been considering other English Proficiency measures
 - Cambridge
 - Occupational English Test (OET)

What we didn't know

- ETS is not supporting old scores at the subscale level, only the total score.

What that means

- We told you at LIF and AEM that you would have approximately 2 years to adjust how you use your TOEFL scores

WE WERE WRONG

- ...and that we would have a new TOEFL standard by the end of 2026 so no need to worry

WE WERE WRONG

- The cutoffs for new TOEFL scores don't perfectly align with the current FSBPT cutoffs or the USCIS standard

-SO-

- You will have to make a POLICY DECISION about how to apply the new TOEFL scores

FSBPT Standard

TOEFL Section	FSBPT Current Minimum Recommendation	ETS/TOEFL Recommendation
Reading	22	4.5
Listening	21	4.5
Writing	22	4.5
Speaking	24	4.5

USCIS Standard, Proposed

TOEFL Section	USCIS/HRSA Current Minimum Recommendation	Proposed Recommendation
Reading	63	3.5
Listening		3.5
Writing		3.5
Speaking	26	5.0
Overall	89	5.0

What FSBPT is doing

- Working with ETS to provide more guidance
- Working with other credentialing organizations
 - HRSA/USCIS guidance
 - Plan to set a new, joint standard in 2026
- Here to answer your questions
- Here to answer candidate questions

Questions?

