

Dear *TOEFL*® Score Recipient:

The *TOEFL*® Paper-based Test (*TOEFL*® PBT) has been an option in some parts of the world since the launch of the computer-delivered *TOEFL iBT*® test in 2005.

The number of individuals who take the *TOEFL* PBT test today is very small: approximately 3,500 test takers per year. We have continued to offer the *TOEFL* PBT test in locations where testing via the internet is not feasible or is so limited that paper testing must be used to supplement the *TOEFL iBT* network. We do this because we are deeply committed to providing access and opportunity for all students.

Beginning in October 2017, ETS will continue its commitment by administering a new paper-format test that is more in line with the *TOEFL*® *iBT* test.

The revised *TOEFL*® Paper-delivered Test will measure 3 skills using the same types of questions as on the *TOEFL iBT* test: Reading, Listening, and Writing. Speaking will not be measured because it cannot be accommodated on a paper-delivered test. Because the revised *TOEFL* Paper-delivered Test is more closely aligned to the *TOEFL iBT* test, the revised paper-delivered scores will be reported on the *TOEFL iBT* score scale, eliminating the previous *TOEFL* PBT score scale of 310-677.

We believe this change will be a positive one for test takers and will have minimal impact on score recipients because the number of individuals who take the current paper-based test is very small. However, there are 2 important changes we wish to point out to score recipients.

- Although scores for the revised *TOEFL* Paper-delivered test will be reported on the *TOEFL iBT* score scale, there will be no Speaking section score, nor will there be a Total score.
- Because there will be no Total score, your evaluation of the applicant's English proficiency, as indicated on the *TOEFL* test, will be based on the 3 section scores (Reading, Listening and Writing).

Below are a number of frequently asked questions related to the revised *TOEFL* Paper-delivered Test, its content, score scale and score reporting.

What is the name of the new test?

The new test will be known as the **revised TOEFL Paper-delivered Test**. It will replace the TOEFL PBT test.

When will the new test begin?

The first test administration will be held October 14, 2017.

Does this mean I will no longer receive any TOEFL PBT scores?

No. TOEFL PBT scores, like all TOEFL scores, are valid for 2 years after the test date, so you may still receive some TOEFL PBT scores.

Will the revised TOEFL Paper-delivered Test use the TOEFL PBT score scale of 310-677?

No. Since the content of the revised paper test is more closely aligned to that of the TOEFL iBT test, the same score scale can be used. Each section will be worth 0-30 points. However, there will be no Total score and no Speaking section score.

Why is there no Speaking section?

Speaking could not be accommodated in a low-tech, paper-delivered format.

Why is there no Total Score?

Because the revised TOEFL Paper-delivered Test is more closely aligned to the TOEFL iBT test, the revised paper-delivered scores are reported on the TOEFL iBT score scale. Each section receives a score between 0-30, just as with the TOEFL iBT test. For the TOEFL iBT test, the Total score is the sum of the scores of all 4 skills, and the Total score ranges between 0-120.

However, unlike the TOEFL iBT test, the revised TOEFL Paper-delivered Test measures only 3 skills: Reading, Listening and Writing. Speaking is not included. The highest Total score that can be earned is 90. ETS decided not to report a Total score so score recipients will not confuse revised TOEFL Paper-delivered test scores, where the total maximum score is 90, with TOEFL iBT scores where the total maximum score is 120.

How will I be able to interpret the new paper-delivered test scores if there is no Total Score?

The revised TOEFL Paper-delivered Test will use the TOEFL iBT section score scale of 0-30. Because there will be no Total score, your evaluation of the applicant's English proficiency as indicated on the TOEFL test will be based on the 3 section scores (Reading, Listening and Writing).

You may not have considered TOEFL iBT section scores while reviewing admission applications in the past. We recommend that you reference your own enrolled student data for the past few years to determine the mean section scores for that population.

Why is there no comparison table?

ETS tried to develop a comparison table by having individuals take both the TOEFL iBT test and the revised TOEFL Paper-delivered Test. The paper-based testing population is very small (approximately 3,500) and, despite our best efforts, we could not recruit enough students to take both tests to allow us to perform the statistical analysis needed to create a comparison table.

How should I report our score requirements for the revised TOEFL Paper-delivered Test on our website?

If you wish to post your requirements, provide the minimum score for each of the 3 skills: Reading, Listening, and Writing. Each of these section scores will be expressed on the 0-30 score scale. Do not combine the scores from the 3 sections of the test to create a Total score requirement.

How will a score recipient know if a paper copy of a score report is for the TOEFL iBT test or the revised TOEFL Paper-delivered Test?

A paper score report for the revised TOEFL Paper-delivered Test will contain the following features to distinguish it from TOEFL iBT scores:

- The top of the score report will read: “revised Paper-delivered Test.”
- The score report will contain only 3 section scores: Reading, Listening and Writing.
- Unlike TOEFL iBT scores, there will be no field for a Speaking section score or a Total score.

Paper copies of score reports for the revised TOEFL Paper-delivered Test will contain the same security features as TOEFL iBT score reports. These include heat-sensitive text in the upper right-hand corner, security paper that contains a chain-link watermark on the back, a Laser Lock and laid lines.

I'm a ScoreLink® user. How will I get these new scores?

A new data set layout was sent to Scorelink users earlier this year to accommodate the new fields, while also keeping space available for former TOEFL PBT scores that are still valid. The data set layout can be found at <https://www.ets.org/toefl/institutions/scores/reporting/>.

I'm an EDM (ETS® Data Manager) user. How will I get these new scores?

The ETS Data Manager system (EDM) will identify the test format (TOEFL iBT or paper-delivered), and rosters will have separate columns for each test format, with “TOEFL iBT,” “TOEFL PBT” or “revised TOEFL Paper-delivered Test” identified.

When will the first TOEFL Paper-delivered Test score reports be available?

Because of the special statistical analyses that need to be done after the first test administration, scores for the October 14, 2017 test will be mailed or made available via Scorelink and EDM approximately 7 weeks after the test date.

Beginning with the November 11, 2017 administration, score reporting will return to the usual time frame, which is 5 weeks after the test date.

Are the TOEFL ITP® tests changing?

The TOEFL ITP tests, which are used by English language programs for placement and monitoring progress of their ESL students, are not changing.

Where can I get additional information about the revised TOEFL Paper-delivered Test?

More information about the test can be found at www.ets.org/toefl/rpdt/about.

You can also contact us by email at TOEFLNews@ets.org or call us at +1-609-683-2008 and we'll be happy to help.

We continue to work to transition all test takers to the TOEFL iBT test, but until that time we want to ensure testing is available to all test takers, even those in the most challenged areas of the world.

Sincerely,

Eileen Tyson
Executive Director, Global Client Relations
ETS

Please help us update our contact information for your institution so we can keep you informed of important TOEFL developments. We would like to obtain the current email address of the person or group responsible for processing TOEFL scores at your institution. Please send the information to CodeControl@ets.org. Thank you.