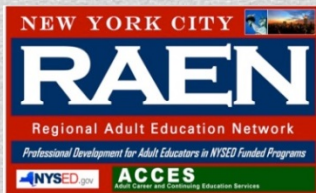


Best Practices for Best Literacy

The image shows three overlapping BEST Literacy test booklets. The top one is green (Form C), the middle one is blue (Form B), and the bottom one is yellow (Form D). Each form has the following fields: Name, Date of Test, Testing Site, and Examiner. Below these fields is a box containing instructions for the test, including a 'BEGIN NOW' button. The forms are part of the BEST Literacy program, which is a partnership between the City of New York and the State of New York.

Central Southern Tier RAEN Conference
May 18 & 19, 2015



Victoria Capeci
NYC RAEN Program Support Manager

Best Practices for Best Literacy

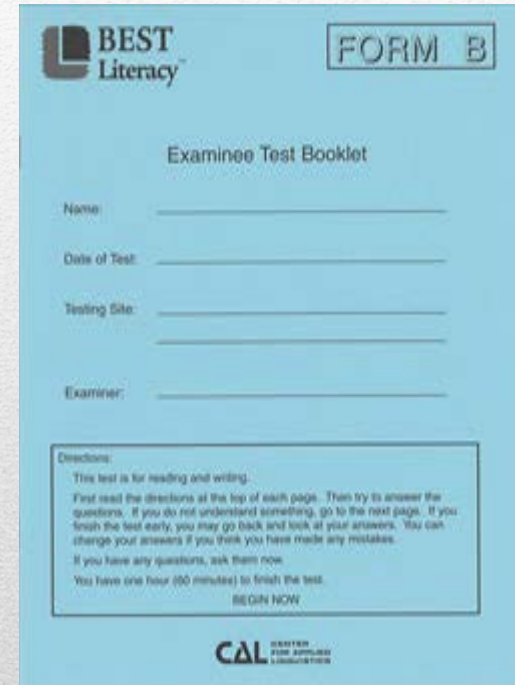
Objectives:

Explore

- BEST Literacy content & structure
- Strategies for helping students negotiate “real-life” reading & writing tasks

Create

- Activities to help students succeed on the BEST Literacy assessment



The image shows the cover of the BEST Literacy Form B, Examinee Test Booklet. It is a light blue document with the BEST Literacy logo in the top left corner. The title "FORM B" is in a box in the top right corner. Below the title, it says "Examinee Test Booklet". There are four lines for the examinee to fill in: "Name:", "Date of Test:", "Testing Site:", and "Examiner:". Below these lines is a box containing "Directions:" which reads: "This test is for reading and writing. First read the directions at the top of each page. Then try to answer the questions. If you do not understand something, go to the next page. If you finish the test early, you may go back and look at your answers. You can change your answers if you think you have made any mistakes. If you have any questions, ask them now. You have one hour (60 minutes) to finish the test. BEGIN NOW". At the bottom right, there is a logo for "CAL" with the text "CALIFORNIA LITERACY ASSESSMENT" below it.

Best Literacy

What do you know?

- Who makes Best Literacy?
 - When do we use Best Literacy?
 - Have you ever given Best Literacy?
 - How does **Best Literacy** compare to **Best Plus**?
-

Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)

The image displays three overlapping forms for the BEST Literacy test, each titled 'Examinee Test Booklet'. The forms are color-coded: Form B is blue, Form C is green, and Form D is yellow. Each form includes the BEST Literacy logo and the text 'FORM B', 'FORM C', or 'FORM D' in a box. The forms contain fields for 'Name', 'Date of Test', 'Testing Site', and 'Examiner'. A 'Directions' box is present on each form, providing instructions for the test. The forms are overlapping, with Form B in the foreground, Form C in the middle, and Form D in the background.

Form B (Blue):

BEST Literacy™ **FORM B**

Examinee Test Booklet

Name: _____

Date of Test: _____

Testing Site: _____

Examiner: _____

Directions:
This test is for reading and writing.
First read the directions at the top of each page. Then try to answer the questions. If you do not understand something, go to the next page. If you finish the test early, you may go back and look at your answers. You can change your answers if you think you have made any mistakes.
If you have any questions, ask them now.
You have one hour (60 minutes) to finish the test.
BEGIN NOW

CAL CENTER FOR APPLIED LINGUISTICS

Form C (Green):

BEST Literacy™ **FORM C**

Examinee Test Booklet

Name: _____

Date of Test: _____

Testing Site: _____

Examiner: _____

Directions:
This test is for reading and writing.
First read the directions at the top of each page. Then try to answer the questions. If you do not understand something, go to the next page. If you finish the test early, you may go back and look at your answers. You can change your answers if you think you have made any mistakes.
If you have any questions, ask them now.
You have one hour (60 minutes) to finish the test.
BEGIN NOW

CAL CENTER FOR APPLIED LINGUISTICS

Form D (Yellow):

BEST Literacy™ **FORM D**

Examinee Test Booklet

Name: _____

Date of Test: _____

Testing Site: _____

Examiner: _____

Directions:
This test is for reading and writing.
First read the directions at the top of each page. Then try to answer the questions. If you do not understand something, go to the next page. If you finish the test early, you may go back and look at your answers. You can change your answers if you think you have made any mistakes.
If you have any questions, ask them now.
You have one hour (60 minutes) to finish the test.
BEGIN NOW

CAL CENTER FOR APPLIED LINGUISTICS

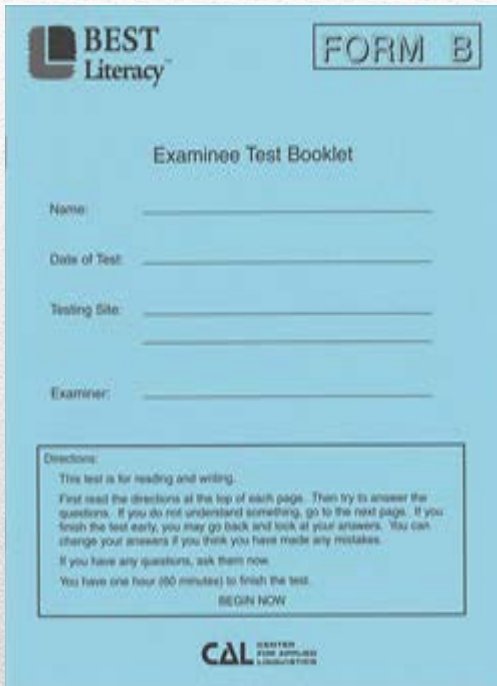
BEST Literacy / 3 Forms: B, C, D

Best Practices for Best Literacy

Scale Scores & NRS Levels

NRS Level	National Reporting System (NRS) Levels	Assessment Equivalents
1	Beginning ESL Literacy	BEST Plus: 400 and below (SPL 0–1) BEST Literacy: 0–20
2	Low Beginning ESL	BEST Plus: 401–417 BEST Literacy: 21–52
3	High Beginning ESL	BEST Plus: 418–438 BEST Literacy: 53–63
4	Low Intermediate ESL	BEST Plus: 439–472 BEST Literacy: 64– 67
5	High Intermediate ESL	BEST Plus: 473–506 BEST Literacy: 68–75
6	Advanced ESL	BEST Plus: 507–540 BEST Literacy: 76+

Agencies have the *option* of using the BEST Literacy



The image shows the cover of the BEST Literacy FORM B, Examinee Test Booklet. It is a light blue document with the BEST Literacy logo in the top left corner. The title 'FORM B' is in a box in the top right. Below the logo, it says 'Examinee Test Booklet'. There are four lines for personal information: 'Name:', 'Date of Test:', 'Testing Site:', and 'Examiner:'. Below these is a 'Directions' box containing instructions for the test, including a 'BEGIN NOW' button. At the bottom, there is a logo for 'CAL CENTER FOR ADULT LITERACY'.

Student scores **541 or higher** on the **BEST Plus**: teachers and administrators decide the best next step for the student, ESL or ABE

Students scores **76 or higher** on the **BEST Literacy**: BEST Literacy pretest is transferred to ABE programming and student must be assessed with the TABE

NYSED BEST Literacy Policy

BEST Plus

- Listening and speaking assessment
- Paper and computer-based testing
- Test must be administered to students
- Must be done one-on-one
- No limit on time

BEST Literacy

- Reading and writing
- Paper-based testing only
- Students demonstrate performance via writing
- Can be administered as a group
- Timed

How do they compare?

Reading

With your group....

- Compare and contrast one part of BEST Literacy Reading
- Explore all 3 forms: B, C & D
- Look at **content** & **format**

The image displays three overlapping forms for the BEST Literacy Examinee Test Booklet. The forms are color-coded: Form C is light green, Form D is light yellow, and Form B is light blue. Each form includes the BEST Literacy logo, the title 'Examinee Test Booklet', and fields for Name, Date of Test, Testing Site, and Examiner. Form B also includes a 'Directions' section with instructions for reading and writing, and a 'BEGIN NOW' button. The forms are arranged in a way that shows their relative positions and the consistency of their layout.

Exploring BEST Literacy

Students need to navigate.....

Inference

Store closes early on weekends.

Store Hours:

Monday	8AM - 5PM
Tuesday	8AM - 5PM
Wednesday	8AM - 5PM
Thursday	8AM - 5PM
Friday	8AM - 5PM
Sat. & Sun.	10AM - 3PM

Text Format

- schedules
- calendars
- lists
- forms

Numbers

- prices
- times
- dates
- phone

Abbreviations

- labels
- ads
- days/months

Synonyms

- doctor/physician
- leave/depart

Grammar

- modals
- verb + infinitive
- verb + base

BEST Literacy READING

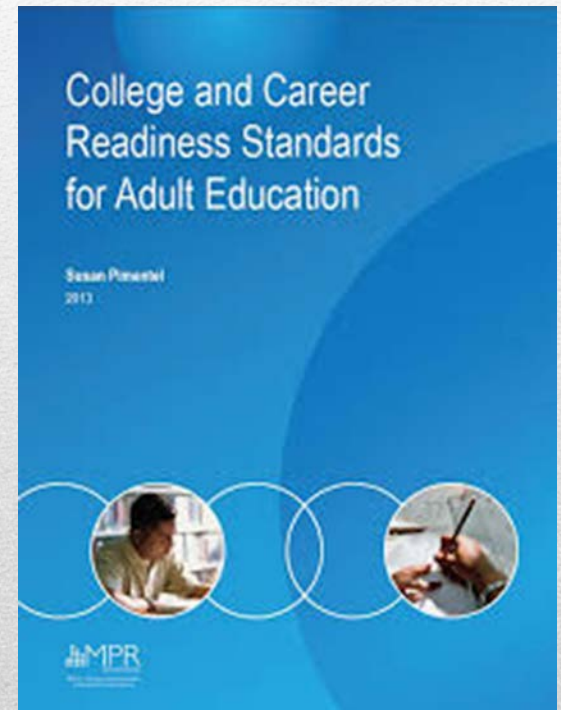
College & Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education

Reading Strand

- Which anchors pertain to the kind of reading in BEST Literacy?

Speaking Strand

- How could these skills be useful in preparing for a reading / writing assessment?



Educational Functioning Level Descriptors—English as a Second Language Levels

Literacy Level	Listening and Speaking	Basic Reading and Writing	Functional and Workplace Skills
NRS Level 1 - Beginning ESL Literacy BEST Plus: 400 and below (SPL 0–1) BEST Literacy: 0–20	Individual cannot speak or understand English, or understands only isolated words or phrases.	Individual has no or minimal reading or writing skills in any language. May have little or no comprehension of how print corresponds to spoken language and may have difficulty using a writing instrument.	Individual functions minimally or not at all in English and can communicate only through gestures or a few isolated words, such as name and other personal information; may recognize only common signs or symbols (e.g., stop sign, product logos); can handle only very routine entry-level jobs that do not require oral or written communication in English. There is no knowledge or use of computers or technology.
NRS Level 2 - Low Beginning ESL BEST Plus: 401–417 BEST Literacy: 21–52	Individual can understand basic greetings, simple phrases and commands. Can understand simple questions related to personal information, spoken slowly and with repetition. Understands a limited number of words and can respond with simple learned phrases. Speaks slowly and with difficulty.	Individual can read numbers, letters and some common sight words. May be able to sound out simple words. Can read and write some familiar words and phrases, but has a limited understanding of connected prose in English. Can write basic personal information (e.g., name, address, telephone number) and can complete simple forms that elicit this information.	Individual functions with difficulty in social situations. Can handle routine entry level jobs that require very simple written or oral English communication and in which job tasks can be demonstrated. May have limited knowledge and experience with computers.
NRS Level 3 - High Beginning ESL BEST Plus: 418–438 BEST Literacy: 53–63	Individual can understand common words, simple phrases, and sentences containing familiar vocabulary, spoken slowly with some repetition. Individual can respond to simple questions about personal everyday activities, and can express immediate needs, using simple learned phrases or short sentences. Shows limited control of grammar.	Individual can read most sight words, and many other common words. Can read familiar phrases and simple sentences but has a limited understanding of connected prose and may need frequent re-reading. Individual can write some simple sentences with limited vocabulary.	Individual can function in some situations related to immediate needs and in familiar social situations. Can provide basic personal information on simple forms and recognizes simple common forms of print found in the home, workplace and community. Can handle routine entry level jobs requiring basic written or oral English communication.

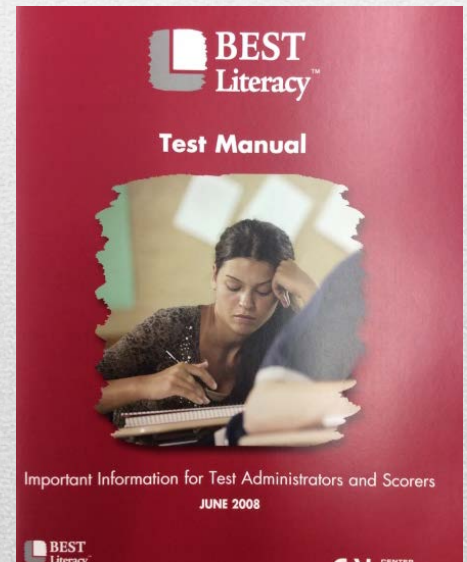
NRS ESL Level Descriptors

Where do you see your students?

BEST Literacy Reading Activity Building

With your group:

- Create a series of activities to help students navigate “real-life” text.
- Have students revisit text several times for several purposes
- Speaking and listening activities can revolve around text



Self-Regulated Strategy Development

- Highlight ideas that could inform our instruction
- How could we help students succeed on BEST Literacy writing tasks?

Teaching Excellence in Adult Literacy: TEAL

TEAL Just Write Guide (p.40)

Self-Regulated Strategy Development

Writing researchers identified what good writers do:

- **plan**
- **monitor**
- **evaluate**
- **revise**
- **manage the writing process**

Teaching Excellence in Adult Literacy

BEST Literacy: Writing

Students need a lot of support

- Setting goals
- Monitoring
- Evaluating

The image shows three overlapping BEST Literacy Examinee Test Booklets. The top form is yellow (FORM D), the middle is blue (FORM B), and the bottom is green (FORM C). Each form has the BEST Literacy logo and the text 'Examinee Test Booklet'. They include fields for Name, Date of Test, Testing Site, and Examiner. A directions box at the bottom of each form provides instructions for the test. The bottom of the forms features the CAL Center for Applied Linguistics logo and the text 'BEGIN NOW'.

Form D (Yellow):

BEST Literacy™ FORM D

Examinee Test Booklet

Name: _____

Date of Test: _____

Testing Site: _____

Examiner: _____

Directions:

This test is for reading and writing. First read the directions at the top of each page. Then try to answer the questions. If you do not understand something, go to the next page. If you finish the test early, you may go back and look at your answers. You can change your answers if you think you have made any mistakes. If you have any questions, ask them now. You have one hour (60 minutes) to finish the test. BEGIN NOW

Form B (Blue):

BEST Literacy™ FORM B

Examinee Test Booklet

Name: _____

Date of Test: _____

Testing Site: _____

Examiner: _____

Directions:

This test is for reading and writing. First read the directions at the top of each page. Then try to answer the questions. If you do not understand something, go to the next page. If you finish the test early, you may go back and look at your answers. You can change your answers if you think you have made any mistakes. If you have any questions, ask them now. You have one hour (60 minutes) to finish the test. BEGIN NOW

Form C (Green):

BEST Literacy™ FORM C

Examinee Test Booklet

Name: _____

Date of Test: _____

Testing Site: _____

Examiner: _____

Directions:

This test is for reading and writing. First read the directions at the top of each page. Then try to answer the questions. If you do not understand something, go to the next page. If you finish the test early, you may go back and look at your answers. You can change your answers if you think you have made any mistakes. If you have any questions, ask them now. You have one hour (60 minutes) to finish the test. BEGIN NOW

CAL CENTER FOR APPLIED LINGUISTICS

BEST Literacy: Short Writing

- Personal Information Form
- Check
- Envelope

BEST Literacy™ **FORM D**

Scoring Sheet

Examinee's Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
Testing Site: _____ Date of Test: _____ Scorer: _____
Student ID: _____ Program Use: _____

Raw Score _____ Scale Score _____
Reading Total: _____ Student Performance Level: _____
Writing Total: _____ NRS ESL Functioning Level: _____
Total Scale Score: _____

READING
(Writing on reverse side)

Part 2: Calendar	Part 5: continued
1. October 31 circled ()	8. times accidents speed ()
2. June 3 circled ()	9. drive car fast ()
3. March 7 circled ()	10. day time now ()
4. December 5 circled ()	11. age is been ()
	12. 12:00 8:00 10:00 ()
	13. with in at ()
	14. telephone appointment emergency ()
	15. must need should ()

Part 3: Food Labels	Part 10: Ads, Signs, Notices, etc.
1. \$3.87 ()	1. c ()
2. \$1.43 ()	2. c ()
3. \$ 79 ()	3. a ()
	4. d ()
	5. d ()
	6. a ()

Part 4: Clothing Labels	Part 7: Telephone Directory
1. Low (Large) ()	7. b ()
2. \$16.00 ()	8. d ()
3. 18 ()	9. a ()
4. \$6.50 ()	10. b ()

Part 6: Train Schedule	Part 8: Reading Passages
1. 5:20P circled ()	1. need must want ()
2. 10:45P circled ()	2. answers driving try ()
3. 6:23A circled ()	3. to want for ()
	4. other another each ()
	5. at in to ()
	6. year years times ()
	7. drink drinking drunk ()

Part 9: Reading Passages
1. need must want ()
2. answers driving try ()
3. to want for ()
4. other another each ()
5. at in to ()
6. year years times ()
7. drink drinking drunk ()

Raw Score _____ / 49
Reading Comprehension Total

The Reading and Writing Section raw scores must be converted to scale scores by using the appropriate conversion tables. Raw scores by themselves cannot be used for comparison in reporting purposes. See BEST Literacy Test Manual (2005) for procedures and conversion tables.

CAL California Assessment of Literacy CAL © 2006 All Rights Reserved www.cal.org/best

Look at the scoring sheet: What do you notice?

BEST Literacy: Short Writing

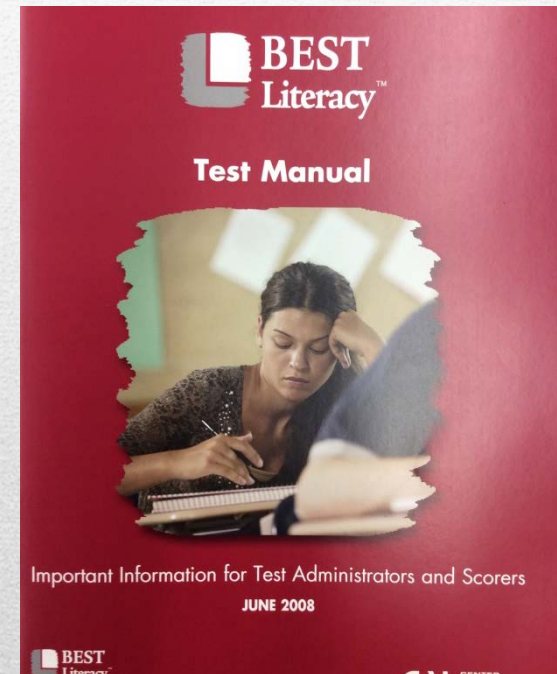
With your group, create:

- Writing activity for the specific task
- Monitoring tool: a checklist to help students see if they've fulfilled task requirements

Setting Goals and Monitoring Writing

BEST Literacy: Note Writing

- Thank-you note
- Invitation
- Cancel appointment / plans
- Late payment
- Repair needed



BEST Literacy Test Manual pages 22 -24

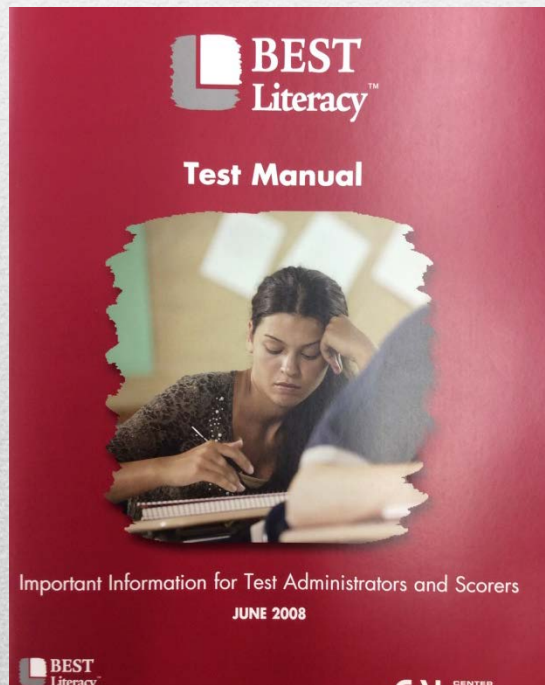
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully comprehensible • Fulfills all task requirements communicatively, including social and polite conventions of English and indicating recipient and sender • Successful elaboration. May have explicit and implicit subordination (use of dependent clauses with a semicolon (;) complementizer (that, if, whether), or a subordinating conjunction (after, because, while)
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally comprehensible • Fulfills only part of task requirements communicatively, but writing is clearly on task • Clear attempt at elaboration, but unsuccessful • May be fewer than three clear sentences
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to comprehend • Clear attempt to fulfill task requirements, or on task but communicates only basic, minimal information • Little or no attempt at elaboration, successful or unsuccessful • Fewer than three clear sentences
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basically incomprehensible • Off task; Off topic; Fewer than three clear sentences

BEST Literacy Test Manual p.22

BEST Literacy Scoring Rubric for Note Writing

BEST Literacy: Note Writing

As teachers,
how do we prepare for a scoring session?



We read with a rubric.

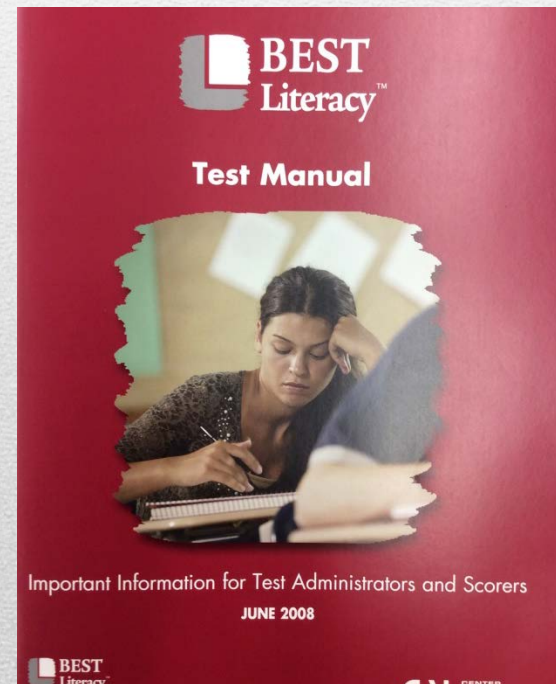
- Sample Notes, pp. 24 -36
- Calibration Activity, p. 14

Why not let students do the same thing?

BEST Literacy: Note Writing

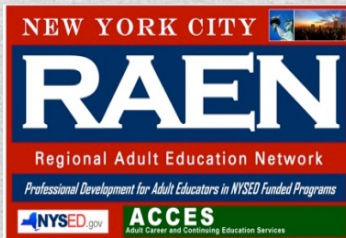
Make the students the teacher:
Have them evaluate sample essays with a rubric

- Modelling is important
- Puts students in control
- Decreases stress



Best Practices for Best Literacy

Southern Central Tier RAEN Conference
May 18 & 19, 2015



Victoria Capeci
NYC RAEN Program Support Manager