

Teaching Faculty FAQs

2026 Resident Reach Pilot

General/Overview (all audiences)

What is the purpose of Resident Reach, and why is the ABA exploring it?

Resident Reach is a longitudinal formative assessment currently being explored in a pilot format. It's designed to spark conversation between anesthesiology residents and teaching faculty, strengthen residents' clinical reasoning, and offer insight into their medical knowledge and confidence throughout training.

Since the 2016 introduction of MOCA Minute, programs have expressed interest in the ABA exploring a similar longitudinal assessment for residents. The ABA's 2025 Strategic Plan solidified a strategic need to engage trainees and programs early, including a new formative assessment for residents. In late 2024, the ABA conducted a Resident Reach pilot with a small group of programs and about 50 residents.

Building on learnings from that initial pilot, the ABA has selected a specific group of programs, representing a range of anesthesiology training environments across the country, to participate in a broader fall 2026 pilot of the Resident Reach platform. Through this pilot, the ABA seeks to understand how Resident Reach supports resident learning and dialogue within programs.

How does Resident Reach work?

Each week, two question sets will be released, each containing three questions in ascending order of difficulty: a cascading question from the BASIC content outline, a cascading question from the ADVANCED content outline and a case-based question. All three questions in a set share a common clinical theme, such as cardiac anesthesiology. Residents will need to answer each question presented to get access to the next in the set.

For cascading questions, residents choose whether to answer in their own words or view an answer choice and assess whether it's correct. After submitting a response, residents rate their confidence and can review the correct answer along with a key point and supporting references.

For case-based questions, residents work through a multi-part clinical case. After submitting their responses, they can view a random selection of other residents' answers, helping them self-assess their reasoning and see different approaches to the case.

When does the pilot run, and how often will questions be released?

The Resident Reach pilot runs Sept. 8 through Oct. 27, 2026. New question sets will be released every Tuesday at 9 a.m. ET from Sept. 8 through Oct. 13. Residents will have two weeks to complete

each question set.

Is Resident Reach a question bank or exam prep?

While Resident Reach questions are aligned with ABA exam content outlines, the pilot is not intended to function as a question bank or exam preparation tool. Instead, Resident Reach is a formative assessment that seeks to encourage reflection on clinical situations through structured question sets.

How does Resident Reach fit into the current training assessment landscape, including In-Training Exams (ITEs)?

The pilot is designed to explore how Resident Reach and the ITEs may connect in the future.

What does the future of Resident Reach look like?

This pilot aims to yield insights to inform future directions. Feedback on the experience, including how the tool is used within programs, will be gathered through pre- and post-pilot surveys, weekly question set feedback provided by residents, and participation data.

Teaching Faculty-Specific Questions

What role do teaching faculty play in the pilot?

Teaching faculty play an important role in helping residents reflect on and discuss Resident Reach questions. The pilot is intended to spark ongoing conversation about clinical reasoning and decision-making. Resident Reach discussions may occur during intraoperative teaching, case reviews or other informal teaching opportunities throughout the week.

What value can Resident Reach discussions provide?

Resident Reach may provide additional opportunities to explore how residents approach clinical questions, explain their reasoning and make decisions in complex scenarios. These conversations can help residents reflect on their thinking, consider alternative approaches and deepen their understanding of clinical concepts.

How should I engage with residents around their answers to questions?

Individual approaches will vary. Teaching faculty are not expected to discuss every single Resident Reach question, but rather as they fit into daily workflows and as opportunities arise in their unique training environments.

For case-based questions that do not have a single correct answer, valuable discussions might center on how residents arrived at their answers, the factors they considered and how they defend their clinical

choices.

How will I see the questions residents are answering?

PDFs with weekly questions will be circulated to program directors on Fridays preceding their release each Tuesday during the pilot. The link to these questions will refresh each week, and PDs are encouraged to share them with teaching faculty in their program.

Pilot Logistics

When will residents see the weekly questions?

Six questions, divided into two question sets, will be released via ABA GO every Tuesday at 9 a.m. ET from Sept. 8 through Oct. 13. Residents will receive alert emails notifying them of the questions' release and available points each week. Program directors will receive weekly questions and possible points in advance via email, on the Friday preceding each Tuesday release.

What is a question set?

A question set is a group of three questions released together around a shared clinical theme. Two question sets are released each week of the Resident Reach pilot.

How long do residents have the opportunity to answer a question set?

New question sets open each Tuesday at 9 a.m. ET and remain available for 14 days, closing at 8:59 a.m. ET two weeks later. Residents can review questions they've previously answered, but unanswered questions cannot be completed after the set closes and will not be available for later review.

Where should I direct any questions about Resident Reach?

Reach out to coms@theaba.org with questions.

How will the ABA gather insights from the pilot?

Before the pilot begins and after the pilot concludes, residents and program directors will receive surveys from the ABA with questions about their experience. Program directors will be encouraged to share the surveys with teaching faculty so they can provide feedback.

Residents will also have the ability to provide feedback within Resident Reach after completing each question set. In-platform analytics will track participation throughout the pilot.

What are cascading questions?

Cascading questions dynamically change format based on the resident's own choices while answering. In the pilot, residents begin by choosing "I Know the Answer," where they submit a written response, or "Show Me an Answer," where they're shown a possible answer choice and asked whether it's correct.

Residents receive the highest number of points for submitting an "I Know the Answer" written response. After submitting an answer, they receive the correct answer alongside a key point and references.

What are case-based questions, and how are they scored?

Case-based questions are free-form written response questions that aim to assess residents' clinical judgment, decision-making skills, and decision-making rationale. Each clinical case contains multiple questions that do not have a single correct answer, as they may have more than one reasonable approach. Residents receive one point for each question answered per case, regardless of their answer.

After answering all questions for a clinical case-based question, residents see a sample of anonymized peer responses. Program directors can review residents' responses in their dashboards, use the data to inform discussions about reasoning, and share with teaching faculty as needed.

How does "Show Me an Answer" work?

If residents select "Show Me an Answer" instead of inputting a written response, they will be presented with a possible answer choice at random and can indicate whether they believe the answer is correct. If they reject all available answer choices, the question will convert to a traditional multiple-choice format and ask them to select the best answer.

Why is the ABA incorporating points in the pilot?

The ABA is piloting a points system to explore residents' behavior in the pilot phase and gauge how points can incentivize participation. Points are awarded for answering questions to encourage engagement. Resident feedback on the approach to points in the pilot may influence future iterations of Resident Reach.

What do points signify?

Points are given for answering questions to encourage engagement, with more points awarded for correct answers and for completing more challenging question types, such as the "I Know the Answer" written response to cascading questions. Points are not used for evaluation, ranking or any formal assessment.

How many points can residents receive?

For case-based questions, residents receive one point for each part of the case they complete.

Cascading question points are awarded as follows:

- Four points for selecting “I Know the Answer” and submitting a written response
- Three points for selecting “Show Me an Answer” and selecting the correct answer
- Two points for selecting “Show Me an Answer” and selecting the incorrect answer
- One point for Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) Fallback and selecting the correct answer
- Zero points for MCQ Fallback and selecting the incorrect answer

Who can see the number of points a resident has accumulated?

Residents participating in the pilot can track their total points on their Resident Reach dashboard in ABA GO. Each resident can only see their own points, and program directors do not have the ability to view residents' points during the pilot.