



## Updated Ability-To-Benefit (ATB) Assessment Test Policy

“Effective with the 2012-2013 award year, new students who do not have a high school diploma, or an equivalent such as a GED, and who did not complete secondary school in a homeschool setting are not eligible for Title IV funds. Such students can no longer become eligible by passing an approved “ability-to-benefit” test or by satisfactorily completing at least six credit hours or 225 clock hours of college work that is applicable to a degree or certificate offered by the student’s postsecondary institution. However, students who were enrolled in an eligible educational program of study before July 1, 2012 may continue to be considered Title IV eligible under either the ATB test or credit hour standards, as discussed on page 1-8 of Volume 1, Chapter 1 of the 2011-12 FSA Handbook.”

Students who were enrolled in an eligible educational program prior to July 1, 2012, have met the eligibility requirement to demonstrate Ability to Benefit\*. Qualified students must score at or above the cut scores for the reading, sentence skills and arithmetic sections of the assessment.

**Reading = 55**

**Sentence Skills = 60**

**Arithmetic = 34**

If a student requires subsequent tests to pass for Ability-To-Benefit, the student must wait fourteen (14) calendar days after the first test is administered for a second test to be administered. If a third test is necessary for Ability-To-Benefit, a student must wait thirty (30) calendar days after the second test is administered for a third test to be administered. The student must also have a petition\*\* to retest completed by a Counselor for a third test and subsequent tests to be administered.

**Additionally, to qualify on the Ability-To-Benefit test, all sections of the test must be taken each time a retest is taken. Federal guidelines for ATB tests require students to pass the three sections of the test “in a single administration of the test” in order to be eligible for Financial Aid benefits.**

DSPS students may contact the DSPS Department for exceptions, if applicable, to this federal guideline.

Please note that the above Ability-To-Benefit (ATB) guidelines do not pertain to eligibility for a Board of Governors Grant Waiver (BOGW) or Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS).

*\*Verification of ATB eligibility will be determined before the student is allowed to test.*

*\*\*Petition forms are available at the Assessment Center.*