

Dated: January 5, 2001.

L.M. Bynum,

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison
Officer, Department of Defense.*

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Ability-to-Benefit Tests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: List of approved "Ability to Benefit" tests and passing scores; notice.

SUMMARY: The Secretary updates the list of approved "ability-to-benefit" (ATB) tests to include the Combined English Language Skills Assessment (CELSA) test Forms 1 and 2 published by the Association of Classroom Teacher Testers (ACTT). The Secretary has approved this test and its passing scores under section 484(d) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), and the implementing regulations in 34 CFR Part 668, Subpart J. An institution may use the CELSA test as an approved English as a Second Language (ESL) test to determine if a student who does not have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent is eligible to receive funds under any title IV, HEA program. (The title IV, HEA programs include the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Family Education Loan, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan, Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Work-Study, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, and the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) programs.)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lorraine Kennedy, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Regional Office Building 3, Room 3045, Washington, DC 20202-5451, Telephone: (202) 708-8242. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 25, 1996, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 55542-55543) that provided a list of eight "ability-to-benefit" tests that the Secretary approved under section 484(d) of the HEA and the implementing

regulations in 34 CFR Part 668, Subpart J. We also included the approved passing scores for each of the approved tests. We added a ninth approved test, the American College Testing (ACT) Service test, and its passing score, in a **Federal Register** notice dated October 27, 1998, (63 FR 57540-57541). Finally, in a **Federal Register** notice dated May 5, 1999, (64 FR 24246-24247), we indicated that the nine approved ATB tests could be used for students with disabilities if certain conditions were met.

We are now adding a new approved test, the Combined English Language Skills Assessment (CELSA) test Form 1 and Form 2, as an approved English as a Second Language (ESL) test under 34 CFR 668.153(a)(2) and (a)(4). The passing score for Form 1 is 90 and the passing score for Form 2 is 90.

The CELSA test can be used to determine the ability-to-benefit of two groups of students whose native language is not English and who are not fluent in English. One group includes students who are enrolled solely in an ESL program. The second group includes students who are enrolled in a postsecondary educational program that is taught in English and has an ESL component where the students are also enrolled in the ESL component.

Please note that the CELSA test cannot be used for the following three groups of students whose native language is not English and who are not fluent in English:

Students who are enrolled in a program that is taught entirely in the students' native language which is not English.

Students who are enrolled in a program that is taught in English without an ESL component.

Students who are enrolled in a program that is taught in English with an ESL component but do not enroll in the ESL component.

Under 34 CFR 668.145(c)(1), when the Secretary approves an ATB test and the passing score on the test, the Secretary publishes the name of the test and the passing score in the **Federal Register**.

Accordingly, the Secretary is publishing this update notice to indicate the approved additional test, CELSA, and its passing score. For the convenience of all interested parties, we are also including the nine previously approved ATB tests and passing scores. These 10 tests and passing scores are:

1. *American College Testing (ACT): (English and Math)*

Passing Scores: The approved passing scores on this test are as follows: English (14) and Math (15).

Publisher: The test publisher and the address, contact person, telephone, and fax number of the test publisher are: American College Testing (ACT), Placement Assessment Programs, 2201 North Dodge Street, P.O. Box 168, Iowa City, Iowa 52243, Contact: Dr. James Maxey, Telephone: (319) 337-1100, Fax: (319) 337-1790.

2. *ASSET Program: Basic Skills Tests (Reading, Writing, and Numerical)—Forms B2 and C2.*

Passing Scores: The approved passing scores on this test are as follows: Reading (34), Writing (34), and Numerical (33).

Publisher: The test publisher and the address, contact person, telephone, and fax number of the test publisher are: American College Testing (ACT), Placement Assessment Programs 2201 North Dodge Street, P.O. Box 168, Iowa City, Iowa 52243, Contact: Dr. John D. Roth, Telephone: (319) 337-1030, Fax: (319) 337-1790.

3. *Career Programs Assessment (CPAT) Basic Skills Subtests (Language Usage, Reading and Numerical)—Forms A, B, and C.*

Passing Scores: The approved passing scores on this test are as follows: Language Usage (43), Reading (44), and Numerical (42).

Publisher: The test publisher and the address, contact person, telephone, and fax number of the test publisher are: American College Testing (ACT), Placement Assessment Programs, 2201 North Dodge Street, P.O. Box 168, Iowa City, Iowa 52243, Contact: Dr. John D. Roth, Telephone: (319) 337-1030, Fax: (319) 337-1790.

4. *Combined English Language Skills Assessment (CELSA), Forms 1 and 2.*

Passing Scores: The approved passing scores on this test are as follows: CELSA Form 1 (90) and CELSA Form 2 (90).

Publisher: The test publisher and the address, contact person, telephone, and fax number of the test publisher are: Association of Classroom Teacher Testers (ACTT), 1187 Coast Village Road, PMB 378, Montecito, California 93108-2794, Contact: Pablo Buckelew, Telephone: (805) 569-0734, Fax: (805) 569-0004.

5. *COMPASS Subtests: Prealgebra/ Numerical Skills Placement, Reading Placement, and Writing Placement.*

Passing Scores: The approved passing scores on this test are as follows: Prealgebra/Numerical (21), Reading (60), and Writing (31).

Publisher: The test publisher and the address, contact person, telephone, and fax number of the test publisher are: American College Testing (ACT), Placement Assessment Programs, 2201 North Dodge Street, P.O. Box 168, Iowa

City, Iowa 52243, Contact: Dr. John D. Roth, Telephone: (319) 337-1030, Fax: (319) 337-1790.

6. Computerized Placement Tests (CPTs)/Accuplacer (Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, and Arithmetic).

Passing Scores: The approved passing scores on this test are as follows: Reading Comprehension (52), Sentence Skills (60), and Arithmetic (36).

Publisher: The test publisher and the address, contact person, telephone, and fax number of the test publisher are: The College Board, 45 Columbus Avenue, New York, New York 10023-6992, Contact: Ms. Loretta M. Church, Telephone: (212) 713-8000, Fax: (212) 713-8063.

7. Descriptive Tests: Descriptive Tests of Language Skills (DTLS) (Reading Comprehension, Sentence Structure and Conventions of Written English)—Forms M-K-3KDT and M-K-3LDT; and Descriptive Tests of Mathematical Skills (DTMS) (Arithmetic)—Forms M-K-3KDT and M-K-3LDT.

Passing Scores: The approved passing scores on this test are as follows: Reading Comprehension (108), Sentence Structure (9), Conventions of Written English (309), and Arithmetic (506).

Publisher: The test publisher and the address, contact person, telephone, and fax number of the test publisher are: The College Board, 45 Columbus Avenue, New York, New York 10023-6992, Contact: Ms. Loretta M. Church, Telephone: (212) 713-8000, Fax: (212) 713-8063.

8. Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE): (Reading Total, Total Mathematics, Total Language)—Forms 5 and 6, Level A, Complete Battery and Survey Versions.

Passing Scores: The approved passing scores on this test are as follows: Reading Total (768), Total Mathematics (783), Total Language (714).

Publisher: The test publisher and the address, contact person, telephone, and fax number of the test publisher are: CTB/McGraw-Hill, 20 Ryan Ranch Road, Monterey, California 93940-5703, Contact: Ms. Rea Christofferson, Telephone: (831) 393-7363, Fax: (831) 393-7142.

9. Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE): (Reading, Total Mathematics, Language)—Forms 7 and 8, Level A, Complete Battery and Survey Versions.

Passing Scores: The approved passing scores on this test are as follows: Reading (559), Total Mathematics (562), Language (545).

Publisher: The test publisher and the address, contact person, telephone, and fax number of the test publisher are: CTB/McGraw-Hill, 20 Ryan Ranch

Road, Monterey, California 93940-5703, Contact: Ms. Rea Christofferson, Telephone: (831) 393-7363, Fax: (831) 393-7142.

10. Wonderlic Basic Skills Test (WBST)—Verbal Forms VS-1 & VS-2, Quantitative Forms QS-1 & QS-2.

Passing scores: The approved passing scores on this test are as follows: Verbal (200) and Quantitative (210).

Publisher: The test publisher and the address, contact person, telephone, and fax number of the test publisher are: Wonderlic Personnel Test, Inc., 1509 N. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville, IL 60048-1380, Contact: Mr. Victor S. Artese, Telephone: (800) 323-3742, Fax: (847) 680-9492.

Duration of Approval

The Secretary approves each of these tests for five years, unless the Secretary withdraws this approval or the publisher requests that approval of a test be withdrawn. In either case, the Secretary will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** indicating this change.

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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1091(d).

Dated: January 9, 2001.

Greg Woods,

Chief Operating Officer, Student Financial Assistance.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.310A]

Parental Assistance Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of Proposed Priority for Fiscal Year (FY) 2001.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary proposes to give a competitive preference in the FY 2001 grant competition under the Parental Assistance Program (20 U.S.C. 5911 *et seq.*). The program provides grants to eligible non-profit organizations, and eligible non-profit organizations in consortia with local educational agencies (LEAs), to establish parental information and resource centers.

Under this competitive preference, the Assistant Secretary would award up to 10 additional points to an applicant that would implement comprehensive strategies designed to strengthen school-family-community partnerships in order to help children in low-performing schools reach high academic standards.

DATES: We must receive your comments on the proposed priority or before February 12, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments about this proposed priority to Daisy Greenfield, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 3E307, Washington, DC 20202-6410, Telephone: (202) 401-0039, FAX: (202) 205-0303. If you prefer to send your comments through the Internet, use the following address: daisy_greenfield@ed.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Daisy Greenfield, (202) 401-0039. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Invitation To Comment

Interested persons are invited to submit comments and recommendations regarding the proposed priority. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection, during and after the comment period, in Room 3E307, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday of each week except Federal holidays.

Assistance to Individual With Disabilities in Reviewing the Rulemaking Record

On request, the Department supplies an appropriate aid, such as a reader or print magnifier, to an individual with a