

Application for Ability to Benefit Testing Approval

This request is for extension of the approval of the reporting and recordkeeping requirements that are contained in the information collection 1845-0049. These regulations govern the application for and approval by the Secretary of assessments by a private test publisher or State that are used to measure a student's skills and abilities. The administration of approved ability to benefit (ATB) tests may be used to determine a student's eligibility for assistance for the Title IV student financial assistance programs authorized under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) when the student does not have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent.

The HEA, as amended by the Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2012 (Pub. L. 112-74) changed the Federal student aid eligibility criteria for students without a high school diploma or the recognized equivalent of a high school diploma. The statute retained the completion of a homeschool program as an eligibility alternative, but removed the passing of an independently administered Department approved ATB test as an eligibility criteria previously available to aid applicants. This change was effective for students who first enrolled in a program of study on or after July 1, 2012. Official guidance from the Department maintains that for students who previously attended an eligible program prior to July 1, 2012 and need to establish Title IV eligibility after July 1, 2012, the provisions of Public Law 112-74 do not apply and will not prevent those students from using prior ATB alternatives including passing an ATB test.

Section 668.151 – Administration of tests.

Section 668.151(g)(4) requires that institutions where approved ATB test are given by certified test administrators either at assessment centers or by an independent test administrators, maintain the name and address of the test administrator who administered the test.

Section 668.151(g)(5) requires that if the individual who took the test has a disability and as a result was unable to be evaluated by the use of a conventional test or required test accommodations, that documentation of the individual's disability and of the testing arrangements must be maintained by the institution.

We estimate that on average it will take an institution .08 hours (5 minutes) per ATB test to collect and maintain the identifier information on each test administrator for each ATB test provided. In addition, for ATB test takers who are individuals with disabilities that it will take an additional .08 hours (5 minutes) per test taker to collect and maintain documentation on the individual's disability and the testing accommodations that were made by the test administrator for the ATB test-taker.

Section 668.151(g)(4) – requirement that institutions maintain the identifier information for all certified ATB test administrators.

Private Institutions: 240,882 ATB test takers X .38% (Private Institutions as a percentage of all participating institutions) = 72,265 X .08 hours = 5,781hours

Section 668.151(g)(5) –requirement that institutions collect and maintain documentation of the individual ATB test-takers disability and of any accommodating provided by the certified test administrator to the ATB test-taker (668.151(g)(5)).

Private Institutions: 28,906 cases of individuals with disabilities taking an ATB test
X .30 (proprietary institutions as a percentage of all participating institutions) 8,672
X .08 hours per case reported = 694 hours

TOTALS

Responses	81,050
Respondents	81,050
Burden Hours	6,945