

## **“Quick Reference” Guide for Federal and New York State Ability to Benefit Guidelines**

1. Are you eligible for and do you plan to make use of New York State TAP and/or any federal aid (PELL, work-study, loans, etc.)?
  - Yes → Continue to Question 2.
  - No → You need only provide a final homeschool transcript (see below for details).
  
2. Can you obtain a letter attesting to the “substantial equivalence” of your homeschool education from your public school district superintendent (see enclosed example)?
  - Yes → Provide this letter to the admission office and you will have met both federal and state requirements for ATB (you must also submit a final official transcript – see below).
  - No → Continue to Question 3
  
3. Have you taken the TASC (formerly GED) and have you received a passing score?
  - Yes → Provide documentation to the admission office. This will meet both state and federal ATB requirements (you must also submit a final official transcript – see below).
  - No → Continue to Question 4.
  
4. Have you earned at least 24 college credits from an accredited college or university in the approved categories?
  - Yes → To determine eligibility, visit <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/aepp/college-credit-and-out-state-testing>
  - No → Continue to question 5.
  
5. Have you taken a state-approved “Ability to Benefit” test?
  - Yes → Provide documentation to the admission office. This meets state ATB requirements. Contact Student Financial Services regarding meeting the federal requirement (you must also submit a final official transcript – see below).
  - No → Contact Student Financial Services to talk about your next options.

### **Final High School Transcript Requirement**

All incoming students who have been homeschooled must submit a final, official high school transcript that shows program of study along with date of program completion and an original signature.

### **“Ability to Benefit” Tests and College Courses that Meet New York State ATB Requirement<sup>1</sup>**

<p>In September 2007, the Regents approved four ability-to-benefit tests to be used to determine eligibility for State financial aid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASSET</li> <li>• COMPASS</li> <li>• Accuplacer</li> <li>• CELSA (The CELSA is approved providing the applicant also takes a math component from one of the other approved tests.)</li> </ul>	<p>Approved courses to meet “24 credit hour” requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 credit hours of English Language Arts</li> <li>3 credit hours of Humanities</li> <li>3 credit hours of Social Science</li> <li>3 credit hours of Mathematics</li> <li>3 credit hours of Natural Science</li> <li>6 credit hours applicable to the student’s program</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.acces.nysed.gov/aepp/college-credit-and-out-state-testing">http://www.acces.nysed.gov/aepp/college-credit-and-out-state-testing</a></p>
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<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/partner-access/financial-aid-professionals/grants-and-scholarships-questions-and-answers/grants-and-scholarships-ability-to-benefit-questions-and-answers.html>

**Note:** this document is provided as a resource; it is the ultimate responsibility of the family to ensure that all federal and state regulations relating to financial aid eligibility are met.