

Alaska Community Health Aide Program  
Facts on TABE Testing

**What is the TABE test?** The TABE is the Test of Adult Basic Education. This test is designed to evaluate a student's grade achievement in learning in different content areas. It is a scientifically validated test that is both timed and untimed depending upon the content area.

**What does the score mean?** The TABE score reflects grade level skills achievement. For example, a score of 6.4 means the student has demonstrated the ability of a mid-year sixth grader. Each content area is scored separately. A score of 6.0 or higher is required; however, some Tribal Health Organizations may require a higher score.

**What do the numbers on the test form mean?** The number of the test reflects the series. As time progresses earlier versions are retired and the next two numbers are produced. At the present time we are using the 9/10 forms. The forms are considered alternate tests meaning that they: measure the same constructs, are intended for the same purposes and are administered with the same instructions. These forms are alternated as students subsequently re-test.

**What do the letters mean?** The letters indicate what grade level the content in the test is meant to test for. If you administer a test that tests lower than the grade content you are attempting to test for you will get inaccurate results. Overview of the levels:

- Level E – reflects content typically taught in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Level M – reflects content typically taught in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Level D – reflects content taught between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- Level A – reflects content taught between 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**What test does CHAP recommend?** We recommend the 9/10 D.

**What are the competencies tested?** The TABE tests for Reading, Computational Mathematics (the ability to do basic computations, decimals, fractions and percentages), Applied Mathematics (measuring, reading graphs and tables, computing time, reading maps), Language (testing grammar, punctuation, sentence construction), vocabulary, spelling, and language mechanics.

**What tests does CHAP require?** We have been testing for math which may be given as a total score, but ideally should be given as two separate scores of applied math and computational math. We also test for reading.

**Can a CHAP retest if their scores are too low?** Yes. Time between testing varies with the agency.

**Who gives the test?** The test should be administered in a testing center by a trained tester. Some Tribal Health Organizations choose to test and score their own. TABE testing is also offered free of charge through the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's Distance Learning Network. You can access the application at the following web link:

[http://www.akchap.org/resources/chap\\_library/Pre\\_Session/TABE\\_Application\\_Form.pdf](http://www.akchap.org/resources/chap_library/Pre_Session/TABE_Application_Form.pdf).