

# ESSA, Act 158, Act 136 and the Keystone Exams



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# Act 158- Changes to High School Graduation Requirements

- ▶ Act 158 of 2018 formally Senate Bill 1095 was signed into law Oct. 24, 2018.
- ▶ Provides five pathways to graduation for those students who do not score proficient on the Keystone exams (Algebra, Literature, and Biology). Districts can choose what pathways they utilize.
- ▶ Begins with class of 2021-2022 (current 11th grade)
- ▶ One of those pathways is a minimum composite score across the three exams. That score has been set at 4452 with no individual test score in the below basic range.
- ▶ Districts are no longer required to offer supplemental instruction to those students who score less than proficient on an exam.
- ▶ The requirements for Project-Based Assessments are eliminated.

# Act 158- Five Graduation Pathways

## **Pathway 1:**

**Earn Proficient or Advanced on all three Keystone Exams.**

*Composite Score will be 4500 at minimum.*

# Act 158- Five Graduation Pathways

## Pathway 2: Keystone Composite Score

A student meets or exceeds a state-defined satisfactory composite score across the three Keystone Exams, **with a proficient score on at least one exam and no less than basic on the remaining two exams.** That score has been set at **4452** with no individual test score in the below basic range. The score will remain in effect unless it is changed by the General Assembly.

# Act 158- Five Graduation Pathways

## Pathway 3: Local grade requirements + alternative assessments, courses and programs, acceptance to college

Must pass Algebra 1, Biology , English 10 Courses and one of the following....

Attainment of an established score on the following approved assessments:

- SAT (Score of 1010)
- PSAT (Score of 970)
- ACT (Score of 21)
- Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (ASVAB), the minimum score needed to gain admittance to a branch of the services in the year that the student graduates
- Attainment of at least the Gold Level on the ACT WorkKeys® Assessment
- Attainment of an established score of 3 on an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB) exam in the associated Keystone Exam content area
- Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment course or any postsecondary course in the associated Keystone Exam content area
- Successful completion of a pre-apprenticeship program
- Acceptance to an accredited four-year nonprofit institution of higher education and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level, credit-bearing coursework

# Act 158- Five Graduation Pathways

Advanced Placement (AP) exam: score of **3** on an AP exam related to one of the following courses

Algebra Equivalent	Literature Equivalent	Biology Equivalent
AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Computer Science A AP Computer Science Principles AP Statistics AP Physics 1: Algebra Based AP Physics 2: Algebra Based AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism AP Physics C: Mechanics AP Chemistry	AP English Language and Composition AP English Literature and Composition	AP Biology AP Environmental Science AP Chemistry AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism AP Physics C: Mechanics

# Act 158- Five Graduation Pathways

## Option 4: Local grade requirements + two tiers of additional evidence of readiness

Earn a passing grade in the courses associated with each of the Keystone exams on which a score of proficiency was not achieved AND demonstrating three pieces of evidence that reflect readiness for meaningful postsecondary engagement consistent with the student's goals and career plan.

### One piece of evidence must be from Tier 1:

- ▶ Attainment of an established score on the ACT WorkKeys® Assessment
- ▶ Acceptance to an accredited nonprofit institution of higher education other than an accredited four-year nonprofit institution and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level, credit-bearing coursework
- ▶ Attainment of an industry-recognized credential
- ▶ Attainment of an established score of 3 on an AP exam
- ▶ Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment course or any postsecondary course

# Act 158- Five Graduation Pathways

## Option 4: Local grade requirements + two tiers of additional evidence of readiness

... AND two pieces of evidence may be from Tier 2:

These may include:

- ▶ Satisfactory completion of service learning project pre-approved for use by a chief school administrator. The proposal should include goals, activities, and contributions to the community. Projects must be supervised by an adult and completion must be verified in writing. (i.e. National Honor Society, Junior Rotaries, Boy Scouts, Etc.)
- ▶ Attainment of a proficient or advanced score on a Keystone Exam
- ▶ A letter from an employer guaranteeing full-time employment
- ▶ A certificate of successful completion of an internship, externship or cooperative education program
- ▶ Satisfactory compliance with the NCAA core courses for college-bound athletes with a minimum 2.0 GPA or equivalence



# Act 158- Five Graduation Pathways

## **Option 5: Local grade requirements + additional CTE evidence of readiness.**

Act 158 clarifies provisions of Act 6 of 2017 regarding established options for students who are CTE concentrators.

Must pass Algebra 1, Biology and English 10, plus...

- ▶ Attain an industry-based competency certification related to the CTE Concentrator's program of Study
- ▶ Demonstrating a high likelihood of success on tests such as the National Occupation Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) or the NIMS (National Institute of Metalworkers Skills).

# Recommended Carlynton School District Graduation Requirements

- ▶ Students will be required to take the exam(s) at least two times. If they are not successful after their first administration, they will be offered remediation to improve their skills and retest, however it is not required.
- ▶ After taking each exam two times and the student has not met at least the 4452 composite score with at least one proficient and no below basic scores, students can opt into taking the exam additional times, but it is not required. They would then need to meet one of the options (Pathway 3-5) on the subsequent slides.

# Keystone Exams Waiver

On March 27, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education approved PDE's request to waive federal assessment requirements for the 2019-20 school year, along with accountability and certain reporting requirements based on data derived from the 2019-20 school year.

This waiver includes:

- ▶ Requirements to administer assessments in the 2019-20 school year;
- ▶ Requirements that a State engage in accountability and school designation requirements based on data from the 2019-20 school year
- ▶ ESSA Report Card provisions related to certain assessments and accountability data from the 2019-20 school year.

# Keystone Exams Waiver

- ▶ The waiver's coverage of assessment requirements applies to the cohort of 2019-20 test takers who were scheduled to take one or more Keystone Exams in the spring of 2020 (Spring 2019-20 Cohort).
- ▶ Accordingly, the Federal government is not requiring any student enrolled in a Keystone Exam trigger course (Algebra I, Biology, English Literature) during the spring of the 2019-20 school year, regardless of their current grade level or expected graduation date, to take the associated Keystone Exam(s) once schools reopen and federal assessment requirements resume.
- ▶ Because Keystone Exams scores are "banked" for accountability purposes and applied in grade 11, this waiver will affect students enrolled in grades other than grades 11 and 12, including as low as grade 6.

# Keystone Exams Waiver

- Students who took the Keystone Exams during the 2019-20 school year prior to the pandemic (summer 2019 or winter 2020) may use those results to satisfy their individual Act 158 requirements and for any local purposes.
- Waiver students will receive a non-numerical PROFICIENT for the missed exams.
- However, because 2019-20 school year cohort results will not be comparable with prior or future years results, these results will not be factored into future accountability determinations such as cyclical Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement determinations (A-TSI) (scores of students who took the Keystone Exams in the summer of 2019 or the winter of 2019-2020 as a re-tester will be attributed for the purposes of federal accountability and reporting.)
- For this reason, these partial results will not be reported through Future Ready in fall 2020. The indicators relying specifically on testing data will continue to display the 2018-19 results and be labeled as such. Access additional guidance on the Future Ready Pa Index (Fall 2020 Edition).

# Keystone Exams Waiver

## Keystone Exams Administration

### Spring 2019-20 Cohort

In the 2020-21 school year, LEAs may choose to schedule a Keystone Exam make-up opportunity for the entire Spring 2019-20 cohort of students to meet graduation requirements or other purposes. If an LEA chooses not to administer the Keystone Exams for the entire cohort, the LEA must communicate that decision publicly at a meeting of the board of directors or board of trustees and post the decision on the LEA's website.

***\*\* This presentation is not communicating such a decision.***

# Keystone Exams Waiver

## Impacts on State Graduation Requirements

In accordance with Act 158, statewide graduation requirements take effect with the class of 2023. Act 158 provides five options for meeting graduation requirements:

- (1) Keystone Proficiency Pathway
- (2) Keystone Composite Pathway
- (3) Alternate Assessment Pathway
- (4) Evidence-Based Pathway
- (5) Career and Technical Education Pathway.

*The first two pathways are based solely on Keystone Exam scores.*

*For that reason, all students, including any student enrolled in a Keystone trigger course during the spring of the 2019-20 school year, must have full access to all five options to meet graduation requirements.*

# Keystone Exams Waiver

## Spring 2019-20 Cohort: Opt-Out

Any student enrolled in a Keystone Exam trigger course during the spring of the 2019-20 school year has the right to opt out of the assessment by parental consent, should an LEA schedule a Keystone Exam administration for the entire cohort. Parents wishing to opt their student out of such an administration are not required to follow the procedures set forth in 22 Pa. Code § 4.4(d)(4) (related to religious opt-outs).

***Note: Students who opt-out of the Keystone Exams will not be able to fulfil Graduation Pathways Option 1 and 2.***



# Keystone Exams Waiver

## 2020-21 Keystone Administration

- ▶ Students enrolled in a Keystone Exam trigger course for the 2020-21 school year will be required to take an end-of-course Keystone Exam in the Winter, Spring, or Summer windows of the 2020-21 school year.
- ▶ Only students whose parent/guardian follows the procedures set forth in 22 Pa. Code § 4.4(d)(4) (related to religious opt-outs) may opt-out of Keystone Exams during the 2020-21 school year. This 2020-21 cohort's data, including participation data, will factor into federal accountability and state reporting, graduation, and other local policy decisions.

# Keystone Testing Windows

*Current Make-up opportunities for the 2019-2020 Cohort:*

- ▶ The Winter Wave 2 testing window is **February 1-March 31, 2021**
- ▶ The Spring 2021 testing window is **May 17- June 25, 2021**

# Implications for the 2019-2020 Keystone Cohort

## Class of 2022 (Juniors)

- Waiver moved the graduation requirements to the graduating Class of 2023
- Receive their Non-numerical PROFICIENT for missed exams.

## Class 2023 and Beyond (Sophomores and beyond)

- Will receive a non-numerical PROFICIENT for the missed exams.
- Will take the Literature Keystone Exam this May
- If a score of Proficient is obtained, then these students will meet the Graduation Requirement for Act 158 under Pathway 1 (Keystone Proficiency)
- If a score of Basic or Below Basic is obtained in Literature, then the students will not be able to access Pathway 2 (Keystone Composite 4452) unless they take the make-up exams for 2019-2020 and receive a numerical score.

*Taking the make-up exams will not override the Non-Numerical Proficient, only provide the numerical score to calculate the composite score of 4452 for which the student can graduate under.*

- Opting out of the makeup will require the student to graduate under Pathways 3-5 instead if Keystone Proficiency or Keystone Composite Pathways

Thank you .....

Questions ??

