

Act 158 Of 2018: Graduation Requirements

- Shift in Grad. Requirements for Class of 2022
- Provide alternatives for high school students to demonstrate readiness for postsecondary success.
- Act 158, in conjunction with Act 6 of 2017, expands the options for students to demonstrate postsecondary readiness through **four additional pathways** that more fully illustrate college, career, and community readiness.

Do Students Still Take Keystone Exams?

Keystone Exams will continue as the statewide assessment that Pennsylvania uses to comply with accountability requirements set forth in the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Although a student may not be required to achieve proficiency on the Keystone Exams in order to graduate, students are required to take the Keystone Exams for purposes of federal accountability. Failure to do so will affect a Local Education Agency (LEA) and school's participation rate.

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Pathway I: Keystone Proficiency Pathway

For students graduating in 2022 and beyond, the following options exist to meet the statewide graduation requirement:

- Keystone Proficiency Pathway: Scoring proficient or advanced on each Keystone Exam - Algebra I, Literature, and Biology.

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Pathway II: Keystone Composite Pathway

- Earning a satisfactory composite score on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams (while achieving at least a proficient score on at least one of the three exams and no less than a basic score on the remaining two).
- The satisfactory composite score for all three Keystone Exams must total 4452.

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Pathway III: Alternate Assessment Pathway

- Successful completion of locally established grade based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam (which means HS courses in Algebra, Biology and Literature) on which the student did not achieve proficiency and **one** of the following:
 - Attainment of an established score on an approved alternate assessment (SAT, PSAT, ACT, ASVAB)
 - Gold Level on the ACT WorkKeys Assessment.
 - Attainment of an established score on an Advanced Placement Program or an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program exam in an academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve at least a proficient score.
 - Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment course in an academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam in which the student did not achieve at least a proficient score.
 - Successful completion of a pre-apprenticeship program.
 - Acceptance in an accredited 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework.

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Pathway IV: Evidence Based Pathway

- Successful completion of locally established grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve proficiency and demonstration of three pieces of evidence consistent with the student's goals and career plans, including ONE of the following:
- Attainment of an established score on the ACT WorkKeys assessment SAT subject test, an Advanced Placement Program Exam, or an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program Exam.
- Acceptance to an accredited nonprofit institution of higher education other than a 4-year institution and evidence of the ability to enroll in college level coursework.
- Attainment of an industry-recognized credential.
- Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment or postsecondary course.
 - AND.....

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Pathway IV: Evidence Based Pathway

Two additional pieces of evidence, including one or more of the options listed on the previous page

- Satisfactory completion of a service learning project.
- Attainment of a score of proficient or advanced on a Keystone Exam.
- A letter guaranteeing full-time employment.
- A certificate of successful completion of an internship or cooperative education program
- A satisfactory compliance with the NCAA's core courses for college-bound student athletes with a minimum grade point average(GPA) of 2.0.
- **CTE Pathway:** For Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrators, successful completion of locally established grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve proficiency and attainment of an industry-based competency certification related to the CTE Concentrators program of study or demonstration of a high likelihood of success on an approved industry-based competency assessment or readiness for continued meaningful engagement in the CTE Concentrators program of study.