Guide to Meeting Statewide Requirements for High School Graduation



Through Act 158 of 2018 and Act 6 of 2017, students graduating from a Pennsylvania public high school in 2023 or later will have the flexibility to meet statewide high school graduation requirements through one of five pathways that fully illustrate their college, career, and community readiness.

This guide is designed to assist during school counselor consultations, leading staff, and secondary students through the various pathways as they consider which best exemplifies each student's interests and goals. Prior to use, counselors should amend the guide to reflect only those options available to their students; for example, some schools do not offer an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme. Counselors may also adapt the guide to include local policies, which are not limited to the statewide requirement and also govern graduation.

At the end of this guide is a sample student checklist to facilitate discussion and serve as a visual prompt for coursework selection or participation in opportunities such as internships or service learning projects as students pursue one or more pathways to graduation. For additional information on evidence requirements and other sample student forms, refer to the Act 158 Toolkit at https://www.pdesas.org/Page/Viewer/ViewPage/56/.

Keystone Proficiency and Keystone Composite Pathways

Keystone Proficiency remains a pathway to high school graduation for the graduating class of 2023 and beyond. Commonwealth students will *not* be required to pass the Keystone Exams (Algebra I, Literature, and Biology) in order to graduate; however, since most students will continue to participate in the Keystone Exams for federal accountability purposes, those achieving scores of Proficient or Advanced (a minimum scaled score of 1500 or higher) in each of the three Keystone Exams demonstrate Keystone Proficiency and meet statewide requirements for high school graduation.

Students achieving a minimum scaled score of less than 1500 on a Keystone Exam may meet statewide requirements under the new **Keystone Composite** Pathway provided:

- ✓ No score of Below Basic was earned for any Keystone Exam,
- √ A score of Proficient or Advanced was achieved on at least one Keystone Exam, and
- ✓ The composite score for all three Keystone Exams is 4452 or greater.

If students do not have three Keystone Exam scores or do not meet the requirements for either Keystone Pathway, they may opt to retake one or more Keystone Exams or may elect to meet statewide graduation requirements under the Career & Technical Education (CTE) Concentrator Pathway, Alternative Assessment Pathway, or Evidence-Based Pathway.

Guide to Meeting Statewide Requirements for High School Graduation CTE Concentrator, Alternative Assessment, and Evidence-Based Pathways

Locally Established Grade-Based Requirements

For the **CTE Concentrator**, **Alternative Assessment**, and **Evidence-Based** Pathways, each student must meet locally established grade-based requirements for academic content associated with *every* Keystone Exam on which the student earned a score of Basic or Below Basic.

By way of example, a student who only demonstrated Proficiency or better in the Keystone Literature Exam would need to meet locally established grade-based requirements for academic content associated with *both* Algebra I and Biology (e.g., the student may be required to pass both the Algebra I and the Biology courses). Note: Although schools may offer Project-Based Assessments (PBA) as grade-based options, they may not require students to participate in PBAs.

Pathway Evidence

In addition to meeting the aforementioned grade-based requirements, the student must provide pathway-related evidence demonstrating preparedness for postsecondary success.

To meet evidentiary requirements under the **Career & Technical Education (CTE) Concentrator** Pathway, a student must attain an Industry-Based Competency Certification related to the program of study *or* demonstrate either 1) readiness for continued meaningful engagement in the program of study or 2) a high likelihood of success on an approved industry-based assessment.

For evidence required under the **Alternative Assessment** and **Evidence-Based** Pathways, please refer to the chart on the following page.

Note: Although the **Alternative Assessment** Pathway requires only one piece of evidence, students earning scores of Basic or Below Basic on two or more Keystone Exams may need to fulfill multiple conditions in order to meet the pathway requirement for that piece of evidence.

By way of example, a student who only demonstrated Proficiency or better in the Keystone Literature Exam would need to 1) meet locally established grade-based requirements for academic content associated with *both* Algebra I and Biology and 2) satisfy *one* of the following pathway requirements:

- Achieve a score of 3 or higher on two AP exams (on academic content associated with Algebra I and Biology respectively) OR
- Achieve a score of 4 or higher on two IB exams (on academic content associated with Algebra I and Biology respectively) OR
- Successfully complete for two concurrent enrollment courses (on academic content associated with Algebra I and Biology respectively) OR
- Achieve an established score on one approved alternative assessment (including ACT WorkKeys NCRC), or
- Successfully complete one pre-apprenticeship program OR
- Gain acceptance into one 4-yr IHE and demonstrate the ability to enroll in college-level work.

Conversely, the **Evidence-Based** Pathway requires three pieces of evidence that reflect readiness for meaningful postsecondary engagement consistent with the student's goals and career plan – though no evidence under this pathway requires the fulfillment of multiple conditions associated with Keystone academic content (e.g., a score of 3 or higher on *any* AP Exam meets the criterion for one piece of evidence). However, as in Alternative Assessment and CTE Concentrator Pathways, students pursuing the Evidence-Based Pathway must meet locally established grade-based requirements for academic content associated with every Keystone Exam on which the student was less than proficient *in addition* to meeting evidentiary requirements for that pathway.

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Meet local grade-based requirements for content associated with *every* Keystone Exam on which a student did not score Proficient or Advanced AND...

demonstrate readiness by attaining evidence under ONE	Alternative Assessment Pathway (requires 1 piece of evidence)	Evidence-Based Pathway (requires 3 pieces of evidence)
of these pathways:	Satisfy ONE of the requirements (V) below:	Satisfy up to <u>THREE</u> * of the requirements (v) below:
Meet or exceed established score(s) on an approved alternative assessment	✓ Achieve one of the following: ACT – a composite score of 21 ASVAB – an AFQT composite score of 31 PSAT/NMSQT – a total score of 970 SAT – a total score of 1010	✔ Achieve at least a 630 on any SAT Subject Test(s) (each SAT Subject Test in a different subject or level and with an earned score of 630 or higher may be counted as a piece of evidence)
Meet or exceed established score on the ACT WorkKeys	√ Achieve at least <u>Gold Level</u> NCRC (National Career Readiness Certificate)	√ Achieve at least <u>Silver Level</u> NCRC (National Career Readiness Certificate)
Meet or exceed established score(s) on Advanced Placement (AP) Exam(s)	√ For <i>every</i> Keystone Exam on which less than Proficient, take a content-related AP Exam and score a 3 or higher on <i>each</i>	√ Score a <u>3 or higher</u> on AP Exam(s) in <u>any</u> content area (each AP Exam affiliated with a different course and with an earned score of 3 or higher may be counted as a piece of evidence)
Meet or exceed established score(s) on International Baccalaureate (IB) Exam(s)	V For <i>every</i> Keystone Exam on which less than Proficient, take a content-related IB Exam and score a <u>4 or higher</u> on <i>each</i>	√ Score a <u>3 or higher</u> on IB Exam(s) in <i>any</i> content area (each IB Exam affiliated with a different course and with an earned score of 3 or higher may be counted as a piece of evidence)
Successfully complete concurrent enrollment course(s) OR Successfully complete a postsecondary (other than concurrent enrollment)	√ For <i>every</i> Keystone Exam on which less than Proficient, <u>successfully complete</u> a content-related concurrent course	V <u>Successfully complete</u> concurrent enrollment course(s) in any content area OR <u>Successfully complete</u> any postsecondary course(s) provided by an LEA-approved institution (each course successfully completed may be counted as a piece of evidence)
course(s) Acceptance into an accredited non-profit Institution of Higher Education (IHE) and ability to enroll in college-level work	V Provide an <u>unconditional acceptance letter</u> from a 4-year IHE OR <u>general admittance and</u> proof of college-level coursework enrollment/equivalent placement test	✓ Provide an <u>unconditional acceptance letter</u> from an other-than-4-year IHE OR <u>general admittance and proof of college-level coursework enrollment/equivalent placement test results/equivalent graduate profile</u>
Successfully complete a Pre- Apprenticeship Program	results/equivalent graduate profile V Successfully complete a PA Labor & Industry registered pre-apprenticeship program	N/A
Attain Industry-Recognized Credential(s)	N/A	√ Receive <u>Industry-Recognized Credential(s)</u> from an SEA- or LEA-approved provider (each credential earned may be counted as a piece of evidence)
		*At least ONE piece of evidence <i>must</i> be attained through the requirements listed above. To attain additional evidence, the student may satisfy up to TWO of the requirements (V) below:
Score Proficient or Advanced on Keystone Exam(s)	N/A	✓ Meet or exceed a score of <u>1500</u> on the Algebra 1, Biology, or Literature Keystone Exam(s) (each Keystone Exam affiliated with a different course and with an earned score of 1500 or higher may be counted as a piece of evidence)
Complete Service-Learning Project(s)	N/A	v Successfully complete (verified by adult supervisor) LEA- approved service-learning project(s) of sufficient duration and intensity to address community needs and learning goals (each service-learning project completed may be counted as a piece of evidence, maximum two)
Complete Internship(s), Externship(s), or Cooperative Education Program(s)	N/A	V <u>Successfully complete</u> (as defined by LEA) an internship or cooperative education program (each internship, externship, or cooperative education program completed may be counted as a piece of evidence, maximum two)
Comply with the NCAA Division Il core course requirements for college-bound athletes	N/A	Maintain the minimum credits and GPA in requisite courses per NCAA guidelines (as certified by LEA)
Attain a letter guaranteeing full-time employment	N/A	v Provide a <u>letter or completed form</u> indicating good faith offer(s) of postsecondary work commensurate with full-time employment as verified by the school administrator OR <u>enlistment papers</u>

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Sample Student Checklist

[STUDENT NAME]		[PAsecu	reID]	[DATE]		
KEYSTONE PROFICIENCY PATHWAY						
ALGEBRA I KEYSTONE EXAM		[scaled so				
BIOLOGY KEYSTONE EXAM		[scaled score]				
LITERATURE KEYSTONE EXAM		-	[scaled score]			
ALL THREE 1500 OR	HIGHER		□SATISFIED (PATHWAY COMPLETE) □NOT SATISFIED (see Keystone Composite)			
	BIOLOGY: Below Basic (1200)-1459), Basic (146	39-1499), Proficient (1500-15 60-1499), Proficient (1500-154 144-1499), Proficient (1500-19	8), Advanced (1549-1800)		
	KEYS	TONE COM	IPOSITE PATHWA	Υ		
No score Below Basic			NOT MET			
At least one score Proficient or	r Advanced	□MET □	NOT MET			
Composite score 4452 or highe	er	□MET □	NOT MET			
ALL THREE MARKE) MET		ED (PATHWAY COMPL TISFIED (see Decision	•		
		DECISIO	N MATRIX A			
Will you retake one or more Ke	evstone Exams?		Keystone Proficiency I	Pathway) NO (see next question)		
Will you retake one or more Keystone Exams? Are you engaged in CTE program of study?		□YES (see CTE Concentrator Pathway) □NO (see Decision Matrix B)				
Are you engaged in CTL program of study:						
CAREE	R & TECHNICAL	EDUCATIO	N (CTE) CONCENT	RATOR PATHWAY		
	Scaled sca	core of 1500 YES				
ALGEBRA 1		or higher	□NO	☐MET ☐NOT MET		
KEYSTONE EXAM	Grade-based red	quirements	□YES	(requires one marked YES)		
		satisfied	□NO			
DIOLOGY.	Scaled sca	ore of 1500	□YES			
BIOLOGY KEYSTONE EXAM		or higher	□NO	☐MET ☐NOT MET		
(or STEE course)	Grade-based requirements		□YES	(requires one marked YES)		
(6. 6.11 66 6.36)		satisfied	□NO			
	Scaled sca	ore of 1500	□YES			
LITERATURE	or higher		□NO	☐MET ☐NOT MET		
KEYSTONE EXAM	Grade-based red	quirements	□YES	(requires one marked YES)		
		satisfied	□NO			
	Competency c	ertification	□YES			
	(attainment	□NO			
	Program co	ntinuation	□YES	□MET □NOT MET		
Industry-Based Evidence		readiness	□NO	(requires one marked YES)		
	Industry-based o	assessment	□YES			
		potential	□NO			

□SATISFIED (PATHWAY COMPLETE)

□NOT SATISFIED (review options)

ALL FOUR MARKED MET

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	DECISION MATRIX B
Are you participating in the ACT, PSAT/NMSQT,	\square YES (consider Alternative Assessment Pathway) \square NO (see next question)
SAT, or ASVAB?	
Are you planning to attend a 4-year institution	\square YES (consider Alternative Assessment Pathway) \square NO (see next question)
of higher education?	
Are you enrolled in a pre-apprenticeship	\Box YES (consider Alternative Assessment Pathway) \Box NO (see Decision Matrix C)
program?	

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT PATHWAY				
CORE REQUIREMENTS				
ALGEBRA 1 KEYSTONE EXAM	Scaled score of 1500 or higher Grade-based requirements satisfied	□YES □NO □YES □NO	□MET □NOT MET (requires one marked YES)	
BIOLOGY KEYSTONE EXAM	Scaled score of 1500 or higher Grade-based requirements satisfied	□YES □NO □YES □NO	□MET □NOT MET (requires one marked YES)	
LITERATURE KEYSTONE EXAM	Scaled score of 1500 or higher Grade-based requirements satisfied	□YES □NO □YES □NO	□MET □NOT MET (requires one marked YES)	
	EVIDENTIARY	REQUIREMENTS	į.	
Meet or exceed established score on ONE approved alternative assessment	ACT composite score of 21 or higher	□YES □NO □YES		
	ASVAB AFQT composite score of 31 or higher PSAT/NMSQT total score of 970 or higher	□NO □YES □NO	☐MET ☐NOT MET (requires one marked YES)	
	SAT total score of 1010 or higher	□YES □NO		
Meet or exceed established score on ACT WorkKeys	NCRC Gold Level or higher		□MET □NOT MET	
Score 3 or higher on AP Exam(s) related to EACH Keystone Exam on which less than Proficient	AP Exam score 3 or higher (Algebra I)	□YES □NO □N/A	. □MET □NOT MET	
	AP Exam score 3 or higher (Biology)	□YES □NO □N/A	(requires each marked YES or N/A)	
	AP Exam score 3 or higher	□YES		

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	(Literature)	□NO □N/A		
	IB Exam score 3 or higher (Algebra I)	□YES □NO □N/A		
Score 4 or higher on IB Exam(s) related to EACH Keystone Exam on which less than Proficient	IB Exam score 3 or higher (Biology)	□YES □NO □N/A		☐ MET ☐ NOT MET (requires each marked YES or N/A)
didifficient	IB Exam score 3 or higher (Literature)	□YES □NO □N/A		
Successfully complete	Pass concurrent course (Algebra I)	□YES □NO □N/A		
concurrent enrollment course(s) related to EACH Keystone Exam on which less than Proficient	Pass concurrent course (Biology)	□YES □NO □N/A		☐ MET ☐ NOT MET (requires each marked YES or N/A)
	Pass concurrent course (Literature)	□YES □NO □N/A		
	Unconditional acceptance letter	□YES		
Dama and and a constant	General admittance letter	ν□		'
Demonstrate acceptance into 4-yr institution of higher education and ability to enroll in college-level work	College-level coursework enrollment OR equivalent placement test results OR equivalent graduate profile	√□	□YES (requires both checked)	□ MET □ NOT MET (requires one marked YES)
Successfully complete a Pre- Apprenticeship Program	Passing grade and program completion verified by adult supervisor		□MET □NOT MET	
ALL THREE CORE REQUIREMENTS MARKED MET			□SATISFIED (proceed to next row) □NOT SATISFIED (review options)	
MINIMALLY ONE EVIDENTIARY REQUIREMENT MARKED MET			□SATISFIED (PATHWAY COMPLETE) □NOT SATISFIED (review options)	

DECISION MATRIX C				
Are you planning to enter the workforce or	\square YES (consider Evidence-Based Pathway) \square NO (see next question)			
military upon graduation?				
Are you enrolled in an internship or cooperative	\square YES (consider Evidence-Based Pathway) \square NO (see next question)			
education program or have you received an				
Industry-Recognized credential?				
Are you planning to attend a less than 4-year	\square YES (consider Evidence-Based Pathway) \square NO (see next question)			
institution of higher education?				
Are you able to meet NCAA Division II academic	□YES (consider Evidence-Based Pathway) □NO (review options)			
requirements?				

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TIP: Review all twelve evidentiary requirements before selecting options as some pieces of evidence may have been attained previously (e.g., a score of Proficient or Advanced on a Keystone Exam).

EVIDENCE-BASED PATHWAY				
CORE REQUIREMENTS				
ALGEBRA 1 KEYSTONE EXAM	Scaled score of 1500 or higher Grade-based requirements satisfied	□YES □NO □YES □NO		□MET □NOT MET (requires one marked YES)
BIOLOGY KEYSTONE EXAM	Scaled score of 1500 or higher Grade-based requirements satisfied	□YES □NO □YES □NO		□MET □NOT MET (requires one marked YES)
LITERATURE KEYSTONE EXAM	Scaled score of 1500 or higher Grade-based requirements satisfied	□YES □NO □YES □NO		□MET □NOT MET (requires one marked YES)
	EVIDENTIARY REQ	UIREME	NTS: SECTION	ON 1
Meet or exceed established score on any SAT Subject Test(s)	2 nd SAT Subject Test sco	SAT Subject Test score of 630 or higher 2nd SAT Subject Test score of 630 or higher		□MET □NOT MET □MET □NOT MET □MET □NOT MET
Meet or exceed established score on the ACT WorkKeys	3 rd SAT Subject Test score of 630 or higher NCRC Silver Level or higher			□MET □NOT MET
Score 3 or higher on any AP Exam(s)	2 nd AP Exar	AP Exam score 3 or higher 2 nd AP Exam score 3 or higher		□MET □NOT MET □MET □NOT MET
Score 3 or higher on any IB Exam(s)	3 rd AP Exam score 3 or higher IB Exam score 3 or higher 2 nd IB Exam score 3 or higher		or higher or higher	□MET □NOT MET □MET □NOT MET □MET □NOT MET
Successfully complete concurrent enrollment course(s) or approved	3 rd IB Exam score 3 or higher Pass course Pass 2 nd course		ass course	□MET □NOT MET □MET □NOT MET □MET □NOT MET
postsecondary course(s)	Unconditional acceptance letter		YES	LIMET LINOT WIET
Demonstrate acceptance into an other-than 4-yr institution of higher education and ability to enroll in college-level work	General admittance letter College-level coursework enrollment OR equivalent placement test results OR equivalent graduate profile	√ □	□YES (requires both checked)	□MET □NOT MET (requires one marked YES)
Attain Industry-Recognized	Earn credential			□MET □NOT MET

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	·				
Credential from approved	Earn 2 nd credential	□MET □NOT MET			
provider(s)	Earn 3 rd credential	□MET □NOT MET			
EVIDENTIARY REQUIREMENTS: SECTION 2					
Score Proficient or Advanced	Score 1500 or higher on Algebra 1	□MET □NOT MET			
on any Keystone Exam(s)	Score 1500 or higher on Biology	□MET □NOT MET			
on any Reystone Exam(s)	Score 1500 or higher on Literature	□MET □NOT MET			
Successfully complete	Project completion verified by adult supervisor	□MET □NOT MET			
approved service-learning project(s)	2 nd Project completion verified by adult supervisor	□MET □NOT MET			
Successfully complete	Program completion verified by adult supervisor	□MET □NOT MET			
internship or cooperative program(s)	2 nd Program completion verified by adult supervisor	□MET □NOT MET			
Meet the NCAA Division II academic requirements for college-bound athletes	Academic standing verified by school administrator	□MET □NOT MET			
Provide a letter/form guaranteeing full-time employment or military enlistment papers	Letter/form/enlistment papers verified by school administrator	□MET □NOT MET			
ALL THREE CORE	REQUIREMENTS MARKED MET	□ PARTIALLY SATISFIED (proceed to next row) □ NOT SATISFIED (review options)			
MINIMALLY ONE EVIDENTIARY	REQUIREMENT MARKED MET IN SECTION 1	□ PARTIALLY SATISFIED (proceed to next row) □ NOT SATISFIED (review options)			
	ENTIARY REQUIREMENTS MARKED MET PERMISSIBLE FROM SECTION 2)	□SATISFIED (PATHWAY COMPLETE) □NOT SATISFIED (review options)			

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Sample Pathway Progress Log

[STUDENT NAME] [PAsecureID]

DATE	ACTIVITY TYPE - student conference - parent communication - colleague consultation - other (specify)	ACTIVITY SUMMARY	NEXT STEPS & TIMEFRAME What needs to be done? - by whom: student, counselor, other (specify)? - by when?
•			