

Pennsylvania Department of Education and
Northern Tioga School District –
Act 158 of 2018 Pathways to Graduation



Act 158 of 2018 has brought about state level graduation requirements or pathways to graduation. These pathways take effect with the graduating class of 2023. While local grade-based and district-based requirements are still in effect, the state has identified five pathways to graduation: Keystone Proficiency Pathway, Keystone Composite Pathway, CTE Concentrator Pathway, Alternative Assessment Pathway, and Evidence Based Pathway. You will find additional information regarding the pathways below, as well as on the school district website.

The goal of Northern Tioga School District is to work with students and families in goal setting and planning for the pathway that is in alignment with their career and educational goals. We hope that the pathways are not a barrier for students, but rather an opportunity to focus post-secondary plans which may assist students in their planning throughout the high school years. Please contact the high school guidance office if you have any questions or for more information, visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website at

<https://pdesas.org/Frameworks/DCEToolKit/Act158PathwaysToGraduationToolkit>.

ACT 158 – State Graduation Pathways

For students graduating in 2023 and beyond, the following pathway options exist to meet state graduation requirements:

- **Keystone Proficiency Pathway**: Scoring proficient or advanced on all three Keystone Exams (Algebra I, Literature, and Biology)
- **Keystone Composite Pathway**: Earning a satisfactory composite score (4452) on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams (while achieving at least one proficient/advanced score and no score of below basic on the remaining two)
- **Alternate Assessment Pathway**: Successful completion of locally established, grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam (passing final course grades in Algebra I, Biology, and English 10/Honors English 10) and one of the following. Examples include:
 - Attainment of an established score on an approved alternate assessment:
 - SAT (1010), PSAT (970), ACT (21), ASVAB (31)
 - Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment course (college dual enrollment class) in an academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam in which the student did not achieve at least a proficient score.
 - Acceptance in an accredited 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework.

- **Evidence Based Pathway:** Successful completion of locally established, grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam (passing final course grades in Algebra I, Biology, and English 10/Honors English 10) and demonstration of **three** pieces of evidence consistent with the student’s goals and career plans, including:
 - ONE or more of the following:
 - Acceptance to any other than 4-year institution of higher education for college-level coursework
 - Attainment of an industry recognized credential
 - Successful completion of any concurrent enrollment or postsecondary course
 - And no more than TWO additional pieces of evidence from the following:
 - Satisfactory completion of a service-learning project
 - Attainment of a score of proficient or advanced on any Keystone Exam
 - Letter guaranteeing full-time employment or military enlistment
 - Successful completion of an internship or cooperative education program
 - Satisfactory compliance with the NCAA’s Division II academic requirements

- **Career and Technical Education Pathway:** Career and Technical Education Concentrators – successful completion of locally established, grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam (passing final course grades in Algebra I, Biology, and English 10/Honors English 10) and ONE of the following:
 - Attainment of an industry-based competency certification
 - Demonstration of the high likelihood of success on an industry-based competency assessment
 - Readiness for continued engagement in the CTE Concentrator’s program of study

Please contact your high school guidance office for additional information.

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