



# PATHWAYS to GRADUATION

**Act 158 of 2018** prescribed multiple pathways for students to meet Pennsylvania's assessment requirement for graduation. The state released the criteria for alternate assessments in spring 2020. These requirements impact the Class of 2023 and beyond.

ACT 158 REFERENCE | <https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/GraduationRequirements/Act158/Pages/default.aspx>

## PATHWAY 1: KEYSTONE PROFICIENCY

- Algebra 1**
- Literature**
- Biology**

Reach "Proficient" or "Advanced" on the following Keystone Exams: If a student does not score "proficient" or "advanced" on all three Keystone Exams, they can still meet the state requirements for graduation by meeting the descriptors established in Pathways two through five.

## PATHWAY 2: KEYSTONE COMPOSITE

Students must earn "proficient" or "advanced" on at least one Keystone Exam, and earn at least a basic score on the other two Keystone exams, and have a composite score of at least 4452.

**KEYSTONE EXAM CUT SCORES**

Content Area	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Algebra I	1200-1438	1439-1499	1500-1545	1546-1800
Biology	1200-1459	1460-1499	1500-1548	1549-1800
Literature	1200-1443	1444-1499	1500-1583	1584-1800

## PATHWAY 3: CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Students will meet local requirements for academic content covered by the Keystone Exams for all subjects where they did not earn proficiency on the Keystone Exam.  
\*Passing ELA, Biology, Algebra 1



Either attain an industry-based competency certification related to the career and technical education (CTE) concentrator's program of study.



Demonstrate a high likelihood of success on an approved industry-based competency assessment or readiness for continued meaningful engagement in the CTE concentrator's program of study.

## PATHWAY 4: ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

Students will meet local requirements for academic content covered by the Keystone Exams for all subjects where they did not earn proficiency on the Keystone Exam.

### AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

**1** Attain an established score on an approved alternate assessment for each subject where the student did not earn proficiency. Approved alternate assessments are:

- Advanced Placement (AP) Exam - 3 (see chart)
- Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT) - at least 970
- Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) - at least 1010
- American College Testing (ACT) - at least 21
- ACT WorkKeys: Gold Level
- Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) minimum score required to gain admittance to a branch of the armed services in the year the student graduates

#### Algebra 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 & Magnetism
- AP Physics C: Mechanics
- AP Chemistry

#### Literature Equivalent

- AP English Language & Composition
- AP English Literature & Composition

#### Biology Equivalent

- AP Biology
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Chemistry
- AP Physics 1: Algebra Based
- AP Physics 2: Algebra Based
- AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
- AP Physics C: Mechanics

**2** Successfully complete a dual enrollment course in an academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam in which the student did not achieve at least proficiency:

- Credit-bearing, non-remedial approved concurrent course
- Aligned to respective Keystone Exams
- Passing grade on the approved concurrent course
- High school or college transcript as evidence



**3** Successfully complete a pre-apprenticeship program.

- Specific career training designed to prepare a student for an occupation in an approved schedule of related instruction
- Program must be registered with the Director Apprenticeship and Training Office at the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry
- Meets all pre-apprenticeship program requirements, per specific industry requirements



**4** Acceptance letter from an accredited 4-year, nonprofit institution

- Placement test results showing the student may enroll in college-level coursework
- College registration form confirming enrollment
- Local profile of an acceptable high school GPA, attendance record, and SAT/ACT score

## PATHWAY 5: EVIDENCE-BASED (THREE PIECES OF EVIDENCE)

Students will meet local requirements for academic content covered by the Keystone Exams for all subjects where they did not earn proficiency on the Keystone Exam.

### AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

- |  |    |  |    |   |    |  |
|--|----|--|----|---|----|--|
| <p><b>1</b> Attainment of an established score on an alternate assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAT Subject Test - 630</li> <li>• ACT WorkKeys: Silver Level</li> <li>• AP (3) or IB (3) related to student goals or career plan</li> </ul> | OR | <p><b>2</b> Acceptance to an accredited nonprofit institution of higher education other than a 4-year institution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acceptance letter</li> <li>• Placement test results</li> <li>• College registration form</li> <li>• Local profile of acceptable HS GPA, attendance record, CAT/ACT score</li> <li>• 2.6 minimum GPA</li> <li>• 80% attendance rate in grades 11 and 12</li> </ul> | OR | <p><b>3</b> Attainment of an industry-recognized credential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation that verifies attainment as defined by the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education</li> </ul> | OR | <p><b>4</b> Successful completion of a dual enrollment or postsecondary course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Credit-bearing, non-remedial course</li> <li>• Approved concurrent course aligned to the respective Keystone exams</li> <li>• Passing grade on an approved concurrent course</li> <li>• High school or college transcript as evidence</li> </ul> |
|--|----|--|----|---|----|--|

### AND UP TO TWO OF THE FOLLOWING

- |  |         |  |         |   |
|--|---------|--|---------|---|
| <p><b>1</b> Service-Learning project completion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must include project learning goal(s), project activities, and the project's contribution to the community</li> <li>• Supervised and assessed by an adult; successful completion is verified in writing by the adult supervisor</li> <li>• Sufficient duration and intensity to address identified community needs and meet specified project learning goal(s)</li> </ul> | AND /OR | <p><b>2</b> "Proficient" or "Advanced" on a Keystone Exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scaled score of 1500 or higher on <u>one</u> Keystone Exam.</li> </ul>  | AND /OR | <p><b>3</b> Letter guaranteeing full-time employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 hours per week or 130 hours per month</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>4</b> Internship or cooperative education program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry-based Learning Indicator Guidance: Work-based learning experiences</li> </ul>  | AND /OR | <p><b>5</b> Compliance with the National College Athletic Association's (NCAA) core courses for college-bound student athletes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum GPA requirements (2.0) in approved NCAA core courses</li> </ul> |         |   |

## ADDITIONAL PATHWAYS

There are two other provisions available in addition to the five pathways described above.

### ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

- |   |    |  |
|---|----|--|
| <p><b>1</b> Graduation based on IEP team decisions with regard to academic goals.</p> | OR | <p><b>2</b> Superintendent's waiver for students with extenuating circumstances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The superintendent can grant a waiver to students at the recommendation of the high school principal and the office of education for a student who is unable to meet any of the pathways prior</li> </ul> |
|---|----|--|



For more information based on individual student status, contact your guidance counselor.