

# KEYSTONE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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District Office  
451 Huston Avenue  
Knox, PA 16232

Phone: 814-797-5921  
Fax: 814-797-2382



**To:** Keystone School District Parents/Guardians, Students, and Faculty/Staff  
**From:** Shawn Algoe, Superintendent  
**Date:** July 30, 2019  
**Re:** **Pennsylvania's Statewide High School Graduation Requirement**

Act 158 of 2018 (Act 158) shifts Pennsylvania's reliance on state testing as a graduation requirement to provide alternatives for high school students to demonstrate readiness for postsecondary success. While there is no statewide graduation requirement for the classes of 2019, 2020, and 2021, local polices given graduation. The statewide graduation requirement outlined herein takes effect for the graduating class of 2022. Formerly, Pennsylvania's statewide graduation requirement was more restrictive, requiring most students to pass the Keystone Exams (end-of-course exams in Algebra I, Literature, and Biology) in order to graduate. Act 158 expands the options for students to demonstrate postsecondary readiness through four additional pathways that more fully embrace college, career, and community readiness.

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

1. **Keystone Proficiency Pathway:** Scoring proficient or advanced on each Keystone Exam (Algebra I, Literature, and Biology).
2. **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).
3. **Alternate Assessment 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 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 (AP) 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; or
  - Acceptance in an accredited 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework.
4. **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, a 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; or
    - Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment or postsecondary course; and
  - Two additional pieces of evidence, including one or more of the options listed above, or:
    - 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;
    - or
    - Satisfactory compliance with the NCAA's core courses for college-bound student athletes with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0.
5. **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 Concentrator's 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 Concentrator's program of study.

### **Keystone Junior-Senior High School Local Graduation Requirements**

For students graduating in 2017 and beyond, students shall:

1. Pass all the required courses in Grades 9-12. *Note: A list of required courses and elective courses, by grade, may be found in the "Program of Studies" or online at [www.keyknox.com/guidance](http://www.keyknox.com/guidance);*
2. Earn a minimum of 24 credits;
3. Successfully complete a culminating project;
4. These requirements may be altered as directed in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP)

For students graduating in 2022 and beyond, students shall:

1. Pass all the required courses in Grades 9-12. *Note: A list of required courses and elective courses, by grade, may be found in the "Program of Studies" or online at [www.keyknox.com/guidance](http://www.keyknox.com/guidance);*
2. Earn a minimum of 24 credits;
3. Successfully complete a culminating project;
4. Meet the Statewide Graduation Requirements as outlined in Act 158 of 2018 (pathways *detailed above*);
5. These requirements may be altered as directed in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP)