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.

# **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 withAlgebra I and Biology respectively) OR
* Achieve a score of 4 or higher on *two* IB exams (on academic content associated withAlgebra I and Biology respectively) OR
* Successfully complete for *two* concurrent enrollment courses (on academic content associated withAlgebra 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 of these pathways:** | **Alternative Assessment Pathway**  *(requires 1 piece of evidence)* | **Evidence-Based Pathway**  *(requires 3 pieces of evidence)* |
| **Satisfy ONE of the requirements (√) below:** | **Satisfy up to THREE\* of the requirements (√) 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 **Gold Level** NCRC (National Career Readiness Certificate) | **√** Achieve at least **Silver Level** NCRC (National Career Readiness Certificate) |
| Meet or exceed established score(s) on Advanced Placement (AP) Exam(s) | **√** For *every* Keystone Exam on which less than Proficient, take a content-related AP Exam and score a **3 or higher**on *each* | **√** Score a **3 or higher** on AP Exam(s) in *any* 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) | **√** For *every* Keystone Exam on which less than Proficient, take a content-related IB Exam and score a **4 or higher** on *each* | **√** Score a **3 or higher** on IB Exam(s) in *any* 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) course(s) | **√** For *every* Keystone Exam on which less than Proficient, **successfully complete** a content-related concurrent course | **√** **Successfully complete** concurrent enrollment course(s) in *any* content area  *OR*  **Successfully complete** *any* postsecondary course(s) provided by an LEA-approved institution  *(each course successfully completed may be counted as a piece of evidence)* |
| Acceptance into an accredited non-profit Institution of Higher Education (IHE) and ability to enroll in college-level work | **√** Provide an **unconditional acceptance letter** from a 4-year IHE OR **general admittance *and*****proof of college-level coursework enrollment/equivalent placement test results/equivalent graduate profile** | **√** Provide an **unconditional acceptance letter** from an other-than-4-year IHE OR **general admittance *and*** **proof of college-level coursework enrollment/equivalent placement test results/equivalent graduate profile** |
| Successfully complete a Pre-Apprenticeship Program | **√** **Successfully complete** a PA Labor & Industry registered pre-apprenticeship program | N/A |
| Attain Industry-Recognized Credential(s) | N/A | **√** Receive **Industry-Recognized Credential(s)** from an SEA- or LEA-approved provider *(each credential earned may be counted as a piece of evidence)* |
|  |  | **\*At least ONE piece of evidence *must* be attained through the requirements listed above. To attain additional evidence, the student may satisfy up to TWO of the requirements (√) below:** |
| Score Proficient or Advanced on Keystone Exam(s) | N/A | **√** Meet or exceed a score of **1500** 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 | **√ 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 | **√ Successfully complete** (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 II 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 | **√** Provide a **letter or completed form** indicating good faith offer(s) of postsecondary work commensurate with full-time employment as verified by the school administrator OR **enlistment papers** |

# **Sample Student Checklist**

[STUDENT NAME] [PAsecureID] [DATE]

|  |  |
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| **KEYSTONE PROFICIENCY PATHWAY** | |
| **ALGEBRA I KEYSTONE EXAM** | [scaled score] |
| **BIOLOGY KEYSTONE EXAM** | [scaled score] |
| **LITERATURE KEYSTONE EXAM** | [scaled score] |
| **ALL THREE 1500 OR HIGHER** | **SATISFIED** *(PATHWAY COMPLETE)*  **NOT SATISFIED** *(see Keystone Composite)* |

ALGEBRA I: Below Basic (1200-1438), Basic (1439-1499), Proficient (1500-1545), Advanced (1546-1800)

BIOLOGY: Below Basic (1200-1459), Basic (1460-1499), Proficient (1500-1548), Advanced (1549-1800)

LITERATURE: Below Basic (1200-1443), Basic (1444-1499), Proficient (1500-1583), Advanced (1584-1800)

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| **KEYSTONE COMPOSITE PATHWAY** | |
| No score Below Basic | **MET NOT MET** |
| At least one score Proficient or Advanced | **MET NOT MET** |
| Composite score 4452 or higher | **MET NOT MET** |
| **ALL THREE MARKED MET** | **SATISFIED** *(PATHWAY COMPLETE)*  **NOT SATISFIED** *(see Decision Matrix A)* |

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| **DECISION MATRIX A** | |
| Will you retake one or more Keystone Exams? | YES *(see Keystone Proficiency Pathway)* NO *(see next question)* |
| Are you engaged in CTE program of study? | YES *(see CTE Concentrator Pathway)* NO *(see Decision Matrix B)* |

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| **CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) CONCENTRATOR PATHWAY** | | | |
| **ALGEBRA 1**  **KEYSTONE EXAM** | *Scaled score of 1500*  *or higher* | YES  NO | **MET NOT MET**  ***(requires one marked YES)*** |
| *Grade-based requirements satisfied* | YES  NO |
| **BIOLOGY**  **KEYSTONE EXAM**  (or STEE course) | *Scaled score of 1500*  *or higher* | YES  NO | **MET NOT MET**  ***(requires one marked YES)*** |
| *Grade-based requirements satisfied* | YES  NO |
| **LITERATURE**  **KEYSTONE EXAM** | *Scaled score of 1500*  *or higher* | YES  NO | **MET**  **NOT MET**  ***(requires one marked YES)*** |
| *Grade-based requirements satisfied* | YES  NO |
| **Industry-Based Evidence** | *Competency certification attainment* | YES  NO | **MET NOT MET**  ***(requires one marked YES)*** |
| *Program continuation readiness* | YES  NO |
| *Industry-based assessment potential* | YES  NO |
| **ALL FOUR MARKED MET** | | | **SATISFIED** *(PATHWAY COMPLETE)*  **NOT SATISFIED** *(review options)* |

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

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| **ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT PATHWAY** | | | | |
| **CORE REQUIREMENTS** | | | | |
| **ALGEBRA 1**  **KEYSTONE EXAM** | *Scaled score of 1500*  *or higher* | YES  NO | | **MET NOT MET**  ***(requires one marked YES)*** |
| *Grade-based requirements satisfied* | YES  NO | |
| **BIOLOGY**  **KEYSTONE EXAM** | *Scaled score of 1500*  *or higher* | YES  NO | | **MET NOT MET**  ***(requires one marked YES)*** |
| *Grade-based requirements satisfied* | YES  NO | |
| **LITERATURE**  **KEYSTONE EXAM** | *Scaled score of 1500*  *or higher* | YES  NO | | **MET NOT MET**  ***(requires one marked YES)*** |
| *Grade-based requirements satisfied* | YES  NO | |
| **EVIDENTIARY REQUIREMENTS** | | | | |
| Meet or exceed established score on ONE approved alternative assessment | *ACT composite score of 21*  *or higher* | YES  NO | | **MET NOT MET**  ***(requires one marked YES)*** |
| *ASVAB AFQT composite score of 31 or higher* | YES  NO | |
| *PSAT/NMSQT total*  *score of 970 or higher* | YES  NO | |
| *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**  ***(requires each marked YES or N/A)*** |
| *AP Exam score 3 or higher*  *(Biology)* | YES  NO  N/A | |
| *AP Exam score 3 or higher (Literature)* | 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*  *(Algebra I)* | YES  NO  N/A | | **MET NOT MET**  ***(requires each marked YES or N/A)*** |
| *IB Exam score 3 or higher*  *(Biology)* | YES  NO  N/A | |
| *IB Exam score 3 or higher (Literature)* | YES  NO  N/A | |
| Successfully complete concurrent enrollment course(s) related to EACH Keystone Exam on which less than Proficient | *Pass concurrent course (Algebra I)* | YES  NO  N/A | | **MET NOT MET**  ***(requires each marked YES or N/A)*** |
| *Pass concurrent course (Biology)* | YES  NO  N/A | |
| *Pass concurrent course (Literature)* | YES  NO  N/A | |
| Demonstrate acceptance into 4-yr institution of higher education and ability to enroll in college-level work | *Unconditional*  *acceptance letter* | YES | | **MET NOT MET**  ***(requires one marked YES)*** |
| *General admittance letter* | √ | YES  *(requires both checked)* |
| *College-level coursework enrollment*  *OR equivalent placement test results*  *OR equivalent graduate profile* | √ |
| 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)* |

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

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).

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| **EVIDENCE-BASED PATHWAY** | | | | | |
| **CORE REQUIREMENTS** | | | | | |
| **ALGEBRA 1**  **KEYSTONE EXAM** | *Scaled score of 1500 or higher* | | YES  NO | | **MET NOT MET**  ***(requires one marked YES)*** |
| *Grade-based requirements satisfied* | | YES  NO | |
| **BIOLOGY**  **KEYSTONE EXAM** | *Scaled score of 1500 or higher* | | YES  NO | | **MET NOT MET**  ***(requires one marked YES)*** |
| *Grade-based requirements satisfied* | | YES  NO | |
| **LITERATURE**  **KEYSTONE EXAM** | *Scaled score of 1500 or higher* | | YES  NO | | **MET NOT MET**  ***(requires one marked YES)*** |
| *Grade-based requirements satisfied* | | YES  NO | |
| **EVIDENTIARY REQUIREMENTS: SECTION 1** | | | | | |
| Meet or exceed established score on any SAT Subject Test(s) | | *SAT Subject Test score of 630 or higher* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| *2nd SAT Subject Test score of 630 or higher* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| *3rd SAT Subject Test score of 630 or higher* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| Meet or exceed established score on the ACT WorkKeys | | *NCRC Silver Level or higher* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| Score 3 or higher on any AP Exam(s) | | *AP Exam score 3 or higher* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| *2nd AP Exam score 3 or higher* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| *3rd AP Exam score 3 or higher* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| Score 3 or higher on any IB Exam(s) | | *IB Exam score 3 or higher* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| *2nd IB Exam score 3 or higher* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| *3rd IB Exam score 3 or higher* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| Successfully complete concurrent enrollment course(s) or approved postsecondary course(s) | | *Pass course* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| *Pass 2nd course* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| *Pass 3rd course* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| Demonstrate acceptance into an other-than 4-yr institution of higher education and ability to enroll in college-level work | | *Unconditional*  *acceptance letter* | YES | | **MET NOT MET**  ***(requires one marked YES)*** |
| *General*  *admittance letter* | √ | YES  *(requires both checked)* |
| *College-level coursework enrollment*  *OR equivalent placement test results*  *OR equivalent graduate profile* | √ |
| Attain Industry-Recognized Credential from approved provider(s) | | *Earn credential* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| *Earn 2nd credential* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| *Earn 3rd credential* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| **EVIDENTIARY REQUIREMENTS: SECTION 2** | | | | | |
| Score Proficient or Advanced on any Keystone Exam(s) | | *Score 1500 or higher on Algebra 1* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| *Score 1500 or higher on Biology* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| *Score 1500 or higher on Literature* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| Successfully complete approved service-learning project(s) | | *Project completion verified*  *by adult supervisor* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| *2nd Project completion verified*  *by adult supervisor* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| Successfully complete internship or cooperative program(s) | | *Program completion verified*  *by adult supervisor* | | | **MET NOT MET** |
| *2nd 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)* |
| **A TOTAL OF THREE EVIDENTIARY REQUIREMENTS MARKED MET**  (UP TO TWO PERMISSIBLE FROM SECTION 2) | | | | | **SATISFIED** *(PATHWAY COMPLETE)*  **NOT SATISFIED** *(review options)* |

# **Sample Pathway Progress Log**

[STUDENT NAME] [PAsecureID]

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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?* |
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