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 2022 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 2022 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.

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#### 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	Alternative Assessment Pathway	Evidence-Based Pathway
attaining evidence under ONE	(requires 1 piece of evidence)	(requires 3 pieces of evidence)
of these pathways:	(requires 1 piece of evidence)	(requires 5 pieces of evidence)
or anoso paramayor	Satisfy <u>ONE</u> of the requirements (v) below:	Satisfy up to THREE* of the requirements (v) below:
Meet or exceed established	<b>√</b> Achieve <i>one</i> of the following:	√ Achieve at least a 630 on any SAT Subject Test(s)
score(s) on an approved	ACT – a composite score of <b>21</b>	(each SAT Subject Test in a different subject or level and with an earned score of
alternative assessment	ASVAB – an AFQT composite score of <u>31</u>	630 or higher may be counted as a piece of evidence)
	PSAT/NMSQT – a total score of <u><b>970</b></u>	
	SAT – a total score of <u>1010</u>	
Meet or exceed established	<b>√</b> Achieve at least <u>Gold Level</u> NCRC (National	<b>√</b> Achieve at least <u>Silver Level</u> NCRC (National Career
score on the ACT WorkKeys	Career Readiness Certificate)	Readiness Certificate)
Meet or exceed established	<b>√</b> For <i>every</i> Keystone Exam on which less	<b>√</b> Score a <u><b>3 or higher</b></u> on AP Exam(s) in <i>any</i> content area
score(s) on Advanced	than Proficient, take a content-related AP	(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)
Placement (AP) Exam(s)	Exam and score a <u>3 or higher</u> on each	
Meet or exceed established	<b>√</b> For <i>every</i> Keystone Exam on which less	V Score a <u>3 or higher</u> on IB Exam(s) in any content area (each  IB Exam affiliated with a different course and with an earned score of 3 or
score(s) on International Baccalaureate (IB) Exam(s)	than Proficient, take a content-related IB  Exam and score a <b>4 or higher</b> on <i>each</i>	higher may be counted as a piece of evidence)
Successfully complete	<b>√</b> For <i>every</i> Keystone Exam on which less	V Successfully complete concurrent enrollment course(s) in
concurrent enrollment	than Proficient, successfully complete a	any content area
course(s)	content-related concurrent course	OR
OR	oontene voluteu oonourvene oouroe	Successfully complete any postsecondary course(s)
Successfully complete a		provided by an LEA-approved institution
postsecondary (other than		
concurrent enrollment)		(each course successfully completed may be counted as a piece of evidence)
course(s)		
Acceptance into an accredited	<b>√</b> Provide an <u>unconditional acceptance letter</u>	<b>√</b> Provide an <u>unconditional acceptance letter</u> from an other-
non-profit Institution of Higher	from a 4-year IHE OR <b>general admittance </b> <i>and</i>	than-4-year IHE OR general admittance and proof of
Education (IHE) and ability to	proof of college-level coursework	college-level coursework enrollment/equivalent placement
enroll in college-level work	enrollment/equivalent placement test	test results/equivalent graduate profile
Consect III and the late of Day	results/equivalent graduate profile	NI/A
Successfully complete a Pre- Apprenticeship Program	<b>√</b> <u>Successfully complete</u> a PA Labor & Industry registered pre-apprenticeship program	N/A
Attain Industry-Recognized	N/A	√ Receive Industry-Recognized Credential(s) from an SEA- or
Credential(s)	I N/A	LEA-approved provider (each credential earned may be counted as a
Creacificat(3)		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 (V) below:
Score Proficient or Advanced	N/A	<b>√</b> Meet or exceed a score of <u>1500</u> on the Algebra 1, Biology,
on Keystone Exam(s)		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	N/A	<b>√</b> <u>Successfully complete</u> (verified by adult supervisor) LEA-
Project(s)		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
Complete Internship(s),	N/A	v Successfully complete (as defined by LEA) an internship or
Externship(s), or Cooperative	N/A	cooperative education program (each internship, externship, or
Education Program(s)		cooperative education program completed may be counted as a piece of
J 17		evidence, maximum two)
Comply with the NCAA Division	N/A	<b>√</b> Maintain the minimum credits and GPA in requisite
Il core course requirements for		<u>courses per NCAA</u> guidelines (as certified by LEA)
college-bound athletes	NI/A	A Drovido o letter or completed forms in direction and C. 11
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-
run-time employment		time employment as verified by the school administrator
		OR enlistment papers
		ON Emisuriem papers

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### Sample Student Checklist

[STUDENT NAME]		[PAsecu	reID]	[DATE]	
KEYSTONE PROFICIENCY PATHWAY					
ALGEBRA I KEYSTONE EXAM		[scaled so	core		
BIOLOGY KEYSTONE EXAM		[scaled so	core]		
LITERATURE KEYSTONE EXAM		[scaled so	core]		
ALL THREE 1500 OR	HIGHER		IED (PATHWAY COM ATISFIED (see Keystor		
	BIOLOGY: Below Basic (1200	)-1459), Basic (146	39-1499), Proficient (1500-15 60-1499), Proficient (1500-15 444-1499), Proficient (1500-1	48), Advanced (1549-1800)	
	KEYS.	TONE COM	IPOSITE PATHWA	Y	
No score Below Basic		□MET □	NOT MET		
At least one score Proficient o	r Advanced	□MET □	NOT MET		
Composite score 4452 or high	er	□MET □	NOT MET		
ALL THREE MARKE	O MET		ED (PATHWAY COMPL TISFIED (see Decision	•	
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)					
CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) CONCENTRATOR PATHWAY					
ALGEBRA 1 KEYSTONE EXAM	Scaled sco Grade-based red	ore of 1500 or higher quirements satisfied	□YES □NO □YES □NO	☐ MET ☐ NOT MET (requires one marked YES)	
BIOLOGY KEYSTONE EXAM (or STEE course)	Scaled sca	ore of 1500 or higher quirements satisfied	□YES □NO □YES □NO	☐MET ☐NOT MET (requires one marked YES)	
LITERATURE KEYSTONE EXAM	Scaled sca	ore of 1500 or higher quirements satisfied	□YES □NO □YES □NO	□MET □NOT MET (requires one marked YES)	
Industry-Based Evidence	Competency co Program co	ertification attainment antinuation readiness	□ YES □ NO □ YES □ NO □ YES □ NO □ YES	□ MET □ NOT MET (requires one marked 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	$\square$ YES (consider Alternative Assessment Pathway) $\square$ 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)		
	EVIDENTIAR	REQUIREMENTS			
Meet or exceed established score on ONE approved alternative assessment	ACT composite score of 21 or higher  ASVAB AFQT composite score of 31 or higher  PSAT/NMSQT total score of 970 or higher  SAT total score of 1010 or higher	□YES □NO □YES □NO □YES □NO □YES □NO □YES □NO	□MET □NOT MET  (requires one marked YES)		
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)  AP Exam score 3 or higher (Biology)  AP Exam score 3 or higher	□ YES □ NO □ N/A □ YES □ NO □ N/A □ YES	□ MET □ NOT MET  (requires each marked YES or N/A)		

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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)
	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	Pass concurrent course (Biology)	□YES □NO □N/A		☐ MET ☐ NOT MET (requires each marked YES or N/A)
than Proficient	Pass concurrent course (Literature)	□YES □NO □N/A		
	Unconditional acceptance letter	□YES		
Demonstrate acceptance into 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)
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 RE	QUIREN	IENTS	
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: SECTIO	ON 1
Meet or exceed established score on any SAT Subject Test(s)	SAT Subject Test sco.  2 <sup>nd</sup> SAT Subject Test sco.  3 <sup>rd</sup> SAT Subject Test sco.	re of 630	or higher	□MET         □NOT MET           □MET         □NOT MET           □MET         □NOT MET
Meet or exceed established score on the ACT WorkKeys			or higher	□MET □NOT MET
Score 3 or higher on any AP Exam(s)	2 <sup>nd</sup> AP Exar	AP Exam score 3 or higher 2 <sup>nd</sup> AP Exam score 3 or higher 3 <sup>rd</sup> AP Exam score 3 or higher		□MET     □NOT MET       □MET     □NOT MET       □MET     □NOT MET
Score 3 or higher on any IB Exam(s)	2 <sup>nd</sup> IB Exar	IB Exam score 3 or higher  2 <sup>nd</sup> IB Exam score 3 or higher  3 <sup>rd</sup> IB Exam score 3 or higher		□MET         □NOT MET           □MET         □NOT MET           □MET         □NOT MET
Successfully complete concurrent enrollment course(s) or approved postsecondary course(s)	Pass course Pass 2 <sup>nd</sup> course Pass 3 <sup>rd</sup> course		ass course 2 <sup>nd</sup> course	□MET □NOT MET □MET □NOT MET □MET □NOT MET
postsecondary course(s)	Unconditional acceptance letter  General		]YES	
Demonstrate acceptance into an other-than 4-yr institution of higher education and ability to enroll in college-level work	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 <sup>nd</sup> credential	□MET □NOT MET
provider(s)	Earn 3 <sup>rd</sup> credential	□MET □NOT MET
	EVIDENTIARY REQUIREMENTS: SECTION	ON 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	□MET □NOT MET
approved service-learning	by adult supervisor	ZIVIET ZITOT WIET
project(s)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Project completion verified	□MET □NOT MET
	by adult supervisor	
Successfully complete	Program completion verified by adult supervisor	□MET □NOT MET
internship or cooperative	2 <sup>nd</sup> Program completion verified	
program(s)	by adult supervisor	□MET □NOT MET
Meet the NCAA Division II		
academic requirements for	Academic standing verified	□MET □NOT MET
college-bound athletes	by school administrator	
Provide a letter/form		
guaranteeing full-time	Letter/form/enlistment papers verified	□MET □NOT MET
employment or military	by school administrator	- INICI - INCI WEI
enlistment papers		
ALL THREE CORE	REQUIREMENTS MARKED MET	□ PARTIALLY SATISFIED (proceed to next row) □ NOT SATISFIED (review options)
		□PARTIALLY SATISFIED (proceed to next row)
MINIMALLY ONE EVIDENTIARY	REQUIREMENT MARKED MET IN SECTION 1	■ NOT SATISFIED (review options)
A TOTAL OF THREE EVIDE	NTIARY REQUIREMENTS MARKED MET	□SATISFIED (PATHWAY COMPLETE)
	ERMISSIBLE FROM SECTION 2)	□ 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?
·			