Guide to Meeting Statewide Requirements for High School Graduation

Keystone Proficiency Pathway				
Keystone Composite Pathway				
CTE Concentrator Alternative Assessment Evidence-Based Pathway Pathway Pathway				

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.

Guide to Meeting Statewide Requirements for High School Graduation 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 of these pathways:	(requires 1 piece of evidence)	(requires 3 pieces of evidence)
of these pathways.	Satisfy ONE of the requirements (v) below:	Satisfy up to <u>THREE</u> * of the requirements (√) below:
Meet or exceed established	\mathbf{V} Achieve <i>one</i> of the following:	V Achieve at least a 630 on <i>any</i> SAT Subject Test(s)
score(s) on an approved	ACT – a composite score of 21	(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>970</u>	
	SAT – a total score of <u>1010</u>	
Meet or exceed established	√ Achieve at least <u>Gold Level</u> NCRC (National	✓ Achieve at least <u>Silver Level</u> NCRC (National Career
score on the ACT WorkKeys	Career Readiness Certificate)	Readiness Certificate)
Meet or exceed established	V For every Keystone Exam on which less	V Score a <u>3 or higher</u> on AP Exam(s) in <i>any</i> content area
score(s) on Advanced	than Proficient, take a content-related AP Exam and score a 3 or higher on <i>each</i>	(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) Meet or exceed established	✓ For <i>every</i> Keystone Exam on which less	V Score a 3 or higher on IB Exam(s) in <i>any</i> content area <i>(each</i>
score(s) on International	than Proficient, take a content-related IB	IB Exam affiliated with a different course and with an earned score of 3 or
Baccalaureate (IB) Exam(s)	Exam and score a 4 or higher on <i>each</i>	higher may be counted as a piece of evidence)
Successfully complete	✓ 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		Successfully complete any postsecondary course(s)
Successfully complete a		provided by an LEA-approved institution
postsecondary (other than		(each course successfully completed may be counted as a piece of evidence)
concurrent enrollment)		(con course successions completed may be counted as a piece of contence)
course(s)		
Acceptance into an accredited non-profit Institution of Higher	V Provide an <u>unconditional acceptance letter</u> from a 4-year IHE OR general admittance and	v Provide an <u>unconditional acceptance letter</u> from an other- than-4-year IHE OR general admittance <i>and</i> 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
en en meenege ieren nern	results/equivalent graduate profile	test results equivalent Bradade prome
Successfully complete a Pre-	✓ <u>Successfully complete</u> a PA Labor & Industry	N/A
Apprenticeship Program	registered pre-apprenticeship program	
Attain Industry-Recognized	N/A	v Receive Industry-Recognized Credential(s) from an SEA- or
Credential(s)		LEA-approved provider (each credential earned may be counted as a
		piece of evidence) *At least ONE piece of evidence <i>must</i> 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	v 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	V <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 Internetia(s)	N/A	evidence, maximum two)
Complete Internship(s), Externship(s), or Cooperative	N/A	V <u>Successfully complete</u> (as defined by LEA) an internship or cooperative education program (each internship, externship, or
Education Program(s)		cooperative education program completed may be counted as a piece of
C ()		evidence, maximum two)
Comply with the NCAA Division	N/A	V Maintain the minimum credits and GPA in requisite
Il core course requirements for		courses per NCAA guidelines (as certified by LEA)
college-bound athletes	N/A	V Drovido a lottor or completed form indicating good foith
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-
		time employment as verified by the school administrator
		OR enlistment papers

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Sample Student Checklist

[STUDENT NAME]	[PAsecureID]	[DATE]	
KEYS	TONE PROFICIENCY PAT	HWAY	
ALGEBRA I KEYSTONE EXAM	[scaled score]		
BIOLOGY KEYSTONE EXAM	[scaled score]		
LITERATURE KEYSTONE EXAM	[scaled score]		
ALL THREE 1500 OR HIGHER	SATISFIED (PATHWAY C	OMPLETE)	
	NOT SATISFIED (see Key	stone 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)			

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

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

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

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

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT PATHWAY			
	CORE RE	QUIREMENTS	
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		
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		с Г
		□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 progran		tion verified It supervisor	
ALL THREE CO	RE REQUIREMENTS MARKED N	ИЕТ		SATISFIED (proceed to next row)
MINIMALLY ONE EV	MINIMALLY ONE EVIDENTIARY REQUIREMENT MARKED MET			SATISFIED (PATHWAY COMPLETE)

DECISION MATRIX C			
Are you planning to enter the workforce or	\Box YES (consider Evidence-Based Pathway) \Box NO (see next question)		
military upon graduation?			
Are you enrolled in an internship or cooperative	\Box YES (consider Evidence-Based Pathway) \Box NO (see next question)		
education program or have you received an			
Industry-Recognized credential?			
Are you planning to attend a less than 4-year	\Box YES (consider Evidence-Based Pathway) \Box NO (see next question)		
institution of higher education?			
Are you able to meet NCAA Division II academic	\Box YES (consider Evidence-Based Pathway) \Box 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 RI	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 REC	UIREME	NTS: SECTION	ON 1
Meet or exceed established score on any SAT Subject Test(s)	SAT Subject Test sco 2 nd SAT Subject Test sco 3 rd SAT Subject Test sco	re of 630) or higher	Image: Met
Meet or exceed established score on the ACT WorkKeys			l or higher	
Score 3 or higher on any AP Exam(s)	AP Exai 2 nd AP Exai 3 rd AP Exai	n score 3	-	Image: Met
Score 3 or higher on any IB Exam(s)	2 nd IB Exai	n score 3	8 or higher 8 or higher 8 or higher	Imet Imet Imet Imet Imet Imet
Successfully complete concurrent enrollment course(s) or approved postsecondary course(s)		Pass	ass course 2 nd course 3 rd course	Imet Inot met Imet Inot met Imet Inot met
posisecondary course(s)	Unconditional acceptance letter]YES	
Demonstrate acceptance into an other-than 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)
Attain Industry-Recognized		Earn	credential	

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Credential from approved	Earn 2 nd credential		
provider(s)	Earn 3 rd credential		
	EVIDENTIARY REQUIREMENTS: SECTION	ON 2	
Score Proficient or Advanced	Score 1500 or higher on Algebra 1		
on any Keystone Exam(s)	Score 1500 or higher on Biology		
	Score 1500 or higher on Literature		
Successfully complete	Project completion verified		
approved service-learning	by adult supervisor		
project(s)	2 nd Project completion verified		
1 7	by adult supervisor		
Successfully complete	Program completion verified		
internship or cooperative	by adult supervisor 2 nd Program completion verified		
program(s)	by adult supervisor		
Meet the NCAA Division II			
academic requirements for	Academic standing verified		
college-bound athletes	by school administrator		
Provide a letter/form			
guaranteeing full-time	Letter/form/enlistment papers verified		
employment or military	by school administrator		
enlistment papers			
		PARTIALLY SATISFIED (proceed to next row)	
ALL THREE CORE REQUIREMENTS MARKED MET		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 EVID	ENTIARY REQUIREMENTS MARKED MET	SATISFIED (PATHWAY COMPLETE)	
(UP TO TWO PERMISSIBLE 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?