

Pathways to Graduation

Act 158 of 2018 (Act 158) provides alternatives to Pennsylvania’s statewide requirement of attaining proficiency on the three Keystone Exams (Algebra I, Literature and Biology) for a student to meet statewide graduation requirements. Effective with the class of 2023, students have the option to demonstrate postsecondary preparedness through one of five pathways. An overview of the 5 Pathways are provided below:

Pathways to Proficiency

1. Keystone Proficiency Pathway

- Score Proficient or Advanced on each Keystone Exam: Algebra I, Literature, and Biology

2. Keystone Composite Pathway

- Earn a satisfactory composite score (minimum composite score of 4452) on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology 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

- Earn a C 70% or better in the courses associated with each Keystone Exam on which a proficient grade was not earned **AND either**:
 - Attain the minimum score on one of the following subject-aligned tests: PSAT (970), SAT(1010), ACT (21), or ASVAB; Gold Level on the ACT WorkKeys Assessment; an established score on the AP Biology (3) or AP English Exam (3) **OR**
 - Successful completion of a pre-apprenticeship program

4. Evidence Based Pathway

- Earn a C 70% or better in the courses associated with each Keystone Exam on which a proficient grade was not earned **AND** demonstration of **three** pieces of evidence consistent with the student’s goals and career plans
 - Including **one** of the following:

- an established score on the ACT WorkKeys Assessment, SAT subject area test or AP Exams,
 - *attainment of an industry-recognized credential*
 - o **AND two** of the following:
 - 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
 - satisfactory compliance with the NCAA's core courses for college bound student athletes with a minimum grade point average of 2.0
5. **CTE Pathway:** For Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrators
- Earn a C (70%) or better in the courses associated with each Keystone Exam on which a proficient grade was not earned **AND**
 - Attain industry-based competency certificate related to the CTE Concentrator's area of study