

# Act 158: Graduation Pathways

Central Dauphin School District

# Act 158 of 2018

Act 158, signed into law by Governor Tom Wolf on October 24, 2018, provides alternatives to Pennsylvania's statewide requirement of attaining proficiency on the three end-of-course Keystone Exams (Algebra I, Literature, and Biology) for a student to achieve statewide graduation requirements.

Act 158 shifts Pennsylvania's reliance on high stakes testing as a graduation requirement to provide alternatives for high school students to demonstrate readiness for postsecondary success.

# Pathways to Graduation

Effective with the graduating class of 2023, students have the option to demonstrate postsecondary preparedness through four additional pathways that more fully illustrate college, career, and community readiness. Keystone Exams will continue as the statewide assessment Pennsylvania uses to comply with accountability requirements set forth in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Although students will no longer be required to achieve proficiency on the Keystone Exams in order to meet statewide graduation requirements, students must take the Keystone Exams for purposes of federal accountability. Failure to do so will affect a Local Education Agency (LEA) and school's participation rate.

# When does this take effect?

The statewide graduation requirement outlined in Act 6 and Act 158 takes effect for the graduating class of 2023.

# Keystone Exams

Per federal regulations, students are required to take each Keystone Exam at least one time.

# Pathway 1: Keystone Proficiency

- Pass each Keystone Exam triggering course.
- Score proficient or advanced on each Keystone Exam.
  - Algebra 1, Literature, Biology

# Pathway 2: Keystone Composite

- Pass each Keystone Exam triggering course.
- Earn a composite score of 4452 on Algebra 1, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams (while achieving at least a proficient score on one of the three exams and no less than a basic score on the remaining two).

Keystone Exam Cut Scores				
Content Area	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Algebra 1	1200-1438	1439-1499	1500-1545	1546-1800
Biology	1200-1459	1460-1499	1500-1548	1549-1800
Literature	1200-1443	1444-1499	1500-1583	1584-1800

# Pathway 3: Alternate Assessment Pathway

- Meet local grade-based requirements for Keystone contents for all subjects where they did not earn proficiency on the Keystone Exam.

AND 1 of the following

- Attainment of one alternative assessment score or better: ACT(21), ASVAB AFQT (31), PSAT/NMSQT (970) or SAT (1010)
- Attainment of 3 or better on AP Exam(s) related to each Keystone content area in which less than Proficient
- Successful completion of concurrent course(s) (see chart) related to each Keystone content area in which less than Proficient
- Successful completion of a pre apprenticeship program
- Acceptance into a 4-year Institution of Higher Education for college level coursework



# Pathway 4: Evidence Based

- Meet local grade-based requirements for Keystone contents for all subjects where they did not earn proficiency on the Keystone Exam.

AND

- Three pieces of evidence from the chart.

3 Pieces of Evidence	
One or more from the first five.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attainment of 630 or better on any SAT Subject Test</li><li>• Attainment of 3 or better on any AP Exam</li><li>• Successful completion of any concurrent or postsecondary course</li><li>• Industry recognized credentialization</li><li>• Acceptance into an other-than-4-year Institution of Higher Education for college-level coursework</li></ul>
No more than TWO from the last five.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attainment of proficient or Advanced on any Keystone Exam</li><li>• Successful completion of a service-learning project</li><li>• Letter guaranteeing full-time employment or military enlistment</li><li>• Completion of an internship, externship, or cooperative education program</li><li>• Compliance with NCAA Division II academic requirements.</li></ul>

# Pathway 5: Career and Technical Education

- Meet local grade-based requirements for Keystone contents for all subjects where they did not earn proficiency on the Keystone Exam.

AND

- Industry-based competency certification
- Likelihood of industry-based competency assessment success
- Readiness for continued engagement in CTE concentrator program of study

# Students with Disabilities

A student with a disability who satisfactorily completes a special education program developed by an individualized education program team under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and 22 Pa. Code Ch. 14 (relating to special education services and programs) that does not otherwise meet the requirements shall be granted and issued a regular high school diploma.

# Additional Resources

[Statewide High School Graduation Requirements](#)

[ACT 158 Pathway Graphic \(PDE\)](#)