

Pathways to Graduation

Guide to Meeting Statewide Requirements for High School Graduation

Keystone Proficiency Pathway

Keystone Composite Pathway

CTE Concentrator
Pathway

Alternative Assessment
Pathway

Evidence-Based
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.

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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 attaining evidence under ONE of these pathways: →	Alternative Assessment Pathway (requires 1 piece of evidence)	Evidence-Based Pathway (requires 3 pieces of evidence)
	Satisfy <u>ONE</u> of the requirements (✓) below:	Satisfy up to <u>THREE*</u> of the requirements (✓) below:
Meet or exceed established score(s) on an approved alternative assessment	✓ Achieve <u>one</u> of the following: ACT – a composite score of <u>21</u> ASVAB – an AFQT composite score of <u>31</u> PSAT/NMSQT – a total score of <u>970</u> SAT – a total score of <u>1010</u>	✓ Achieve at least a <u>630</u> on any SAT Subject Test(s) <i>(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)</i>
Meet or exceed established score on the ACT WorkKeys	✓ Achieve at least <u>Gold Level</u> NCRC (National Career Readiness Certificate)	✓ Achieve at least <u>Silver Level</u> 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 <u>3 or higher</u> on each	✓ Score a <u>3 or higher</u> on AP Exam(s) in any content area <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)</i>
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 <u>4 or higher</u> on each	✓ Score a <u>3 or higher</u> on IB Exam(s) in any content area <i>(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)</i>
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, <u>successfully complete</u> a content-related concurrent course	✓ <u>Successfully complete</u> concurrent enrollment course(s) in any content area OR <u>Successfully complete</u> any postsecondary course(s) provided by an LEA-approved institution <i>(each course successfully completed may be counted as a piece of evidence)</i>
Acceptance into an accredited non-profit Institution of Higher Education (IHE) and ability to enroll in college-level work	✓ Provide an <u>unconditional acceptance letter</u> from a 4-year IHE OR <u>general admittance and proof of college-level coursework enrollment/equivalent placement test results/equivalent graduate profile</u>	✓ Provide an <u>unconditional acceptance letter</u> from an other-than-4-year IHE OR <u>general admittance and proof of college-level coursework enrollment/equivalent placement test results/equivalent graduate profile</u>
Successfully complete a Pre-Apprenticeship Program	✓ <u>Successfully complete</u> a PA Labor & Industry registered pre-apprenticeship program	N/A
Attain Industry-Recognized Credential(s)	N/A	✓ Receive <u>Industry-Recognized Credential(s)</u> from an SEA- or LEA-approved provider <i>(each credential earned may be counted as a piece of evidence)</i>
*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 (✓) below:		
Score Proficient or Advanced on Keystone Exam(s)	N/A	✓ Meet or exceed a score of <u>1500</u> on the Algebra 1, Biology, or Literature Keystone Exam(s) <i>(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)</i>
Complete Service-Learning Project(s)	N/A	✓ <u>Successfully complete</u> (verified by adult supervisor) LEA-approved service-learning project(s) of sufficient duration and intensity to address community needs and learning goals <i>(each service-learning project completed may be counted as a piece of evidence, maximum two)</i>
Complete Internship(s), Externship(s), or Cooperative Education Program(s)	N/A	✓ <u>Successfully complete</u> (as defined by LEA) an internship or cooperative education program <i>(each internship, externship, or cooperative education program completed may be counted as a piece of evidence, maximum two)</i>
Comply with the NCAA Division II core course requirements for college-bound athletes	N/A	✓ Maintain the <u>minimum credits and GPA in requisite courses per NCAA</u> guidelines (as certified by LEA)
Attain a letter guaranteeing full-time employment	N/A	✓ 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 <u>enlistment papers</u>