



PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION

Act 158 of 2018 prescribed multiple pathways for students to meet Pennsylvania's assessment requirement for graduation. The state released the criteria for alternate assessments in spring 2020. These requirements impact the Class of 2023 and beyond.

ACT 158 REFERENCE | <https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/GraduationRequirements/Act158/Pages/default.aspx>

PATHWAY 1: KEYSTONE PROFICIENCY

Reach "Proficient" or "Advanced" on the following Keystone Exams: If a student does not score "proficient" or "advanced"

- Algebra 1
- Literature
- Biology

on all three Keystone Exams, they can still meet the state requirements for graduation by meeting the descriptors established in Pathways two through five.

PATHWAY 2: KEYSTONE COMPOSITE

Students must earn "proficient" or "advanced" on at least one Keystone Exam, and earn

at least a basic score on the other two Keystone exams, and have a composite score of at least 4452.

2-SCORE	3-SCORE
At least one numeric score must be Proficient or Advanced	
No numeric score may be Below Basic	
Numeric composite score of 2939 or higher	Numeric composite score of 4452 or higher

PATHWAY 3: CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Students will meet local requirements for academic content covered by the Keystone Exams for all subjects where they did not earn proficiency on the Keystone Exam.

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Either attain an industry-based competency certification related to the career and technical education (CTE) concentrator's program of study.

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Demonstrate a high likelihood of success on an approved industry-based competency assessment or readiness for continued meaningful engagement in the CTE concentrator's program of study.

PATHWAY 4: ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

Students will meet local requirements for academic content covered by the Keystone Exams for all subjects where they did not earn proficiency on the Keystone Exam.

AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

Attain an established score on an approved alternate assessment for each subject where the student did not earn proficiency. Approved alternate assessments are:

- Advanced Placement (AP) Exam - 3 (see chart)
- Achieve a score of 4 or higher on the Keystone-related IB exam
- Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT) - 970
- Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) - 1010
- American College Testing (ACT) - 21
- ACT WorkKeys: Gold Level
- Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) minimum score of 31 required to gain admittance to a branch of the armed services in the year the student graduates

Algebra Equivalent

- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Statistics
- AP Physics 1: Algebra Based
- AP Physics 2: Algebra Based
- AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
- AP Physics C: Mechanics
- AP Chemistry

Literature Equivalent

- AP English Language & Composition
- AP English Literature & Composition

Biology Equivalent

- AP Biology
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Chemistry
- AP Physics 1: Algebra Based
- AP Physics 2: Algebra Based
- AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
- AP Physics C: Mechanics

OR ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

1. Successfully complete a dual enrollment course in an academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam in which the student did not achieve at least proficiency:

- Credit-bearing, non-remedial approved concurrent course
- Aligned to respective Keystone Exams
- Passing grade on the approved concurrent course
- High school or college transcript as evidence

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2. Successfully complete a pre-apprenticeship program.

- Specific career training designed to prepare a student for an occupation in an approved schedule of related instruction
- Program must be registered with the Director Apprenticeship and Training Office at the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry
- Meets all pre-apprenticeship program requirements, per specific industry requirements

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3. Be accepted in an accredited 4-year, nonprofit institution of higher education and have evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework

- Acceptance letter from an accredited 4-year, nonprofit institution
- Placement test results showing the student may enroll in college-level coursework
- College registration form confirming enrollment
- Local profile of an acceptable high school GPA, attendance record, and SAT/ACT score

PATHWAY 5: EVIDENCE-BASED (THREE PIECES OF EVIDENCE)

Students will meet local requirements for academic content covered by the Keystone Exams for all subjects where they did not earn proficiency on the Keystone Exam.

AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

1. Attainment of an established score on an alternate assessment

- SAT Subject Test - 630
- ACT WorkKeys: Silver Level
- AP (3) or IB (3) related to student career choice

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2. Acceptance to a 4-year accredited nonprofit institution of higher education

- Acceptance letter
- Placement test results
- College registration form
- Local profile of acceptable HS GPA, attendance record, CAT/ACT score

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3. Attainment of an industry-recognized credential

- Documentation that verifies attainment as defined by the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

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4. Successful completion of a dual enrollment or postsecondary course

- Credit-bearing, non-remedial course
- Approved concurrent course aligned to the respective Keystone exams
- Passing grade on an approved concurrent course
- High school or college transcript as evidence

AND UP TO TWO OF THE FOLLOWING

1. Service-Learning project completion

- Must include at least 10 hours of project learning goal(s), project activities, and the project's contribution to the community
- Supervised and assessed by an adult; successful completion is verified in writing by the adult supervisor
- Sufficient duration and intensity to address identified community needs and meet specified project learning goal(s)

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2. "Proficient" or "Advanced" on a Keystone Exam

- Scaled score of 1500 or higher on one Keystone Exam.

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3. Letter guaranteeing full-time employment

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4. Internship or cooperative education program

- Industry-based Learning Indicator Guidance: Work-based learning experiences

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5. Compliance with the National College Athletic Association's (NCAA) core courses for college-bound student athletes.

- Minimum GPA requirements (2.0) in approved NCAA core courses

ADDITIONAL PATHWAYS

There are two other provisions available in addition to the five pathways described above.

ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

1. Graduation based on IEP team decisions with regard to academic goals.

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2. Superintendent's waiver for students with extenuating circumstances

- The superintendent can grant a waiver to students at the recommendation of the high school principal and the office of education for a student who is unable to meet any of the pathways prior to graduation. For example, a student entering the district from another state during their senior year.



**WILLIAM PENN SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL**

For additional information, contact the SDCY Office of Education at (717) 845-3571.