

Pennsylvania Graduation Requirements-Act 158

For students graduating in 2023 and beyond, the following five options exist in order to meet the statewide graduation requirement: In accordance with Pennsylvania's Act 136 of 2020, beginning with the graduating class of 2023, students must meet statewide graduation requirements in one of five ways. [This video](#) breaks down each pathway. Below is a breakdown of each pathway option along with a graphic.

Option 1: Keystone Pathways:

Successful completion of the three Pennsylvania Keystone Exams are an acceptable pathway for graduation:

- **Keystone Proficiency Pathway:** Scoring proficient or advanced on each Keystone Exam - Algebra I, Literature, and Biology.
- **Keystone Composite Pathway:**
 - The Keystone Exam 3-score composite is 4452 on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone 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).
 - The Keystone Exam 2-score composite is 2939 or Greater (where eligible under §121.1)

Option 2: Alternate Assessment Pathway:

Successful completion of locally established grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve proficiency **and** one of the following:

- Attainment of an established score on an approved alternate assessment (SAT, PSAT, ACT, ASVAB);
 - Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT): score 1010
 - PSAT: score of 970
 - ACT: score of 21
 - Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery exam: the minimum score to gain admittance to a branch of the armed services in the year the student graduates
- Attainment of an established score on an Advanced Placement Program in an academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve at least a proficient score;

- Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment (dual enrolled course) in an academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam in which the student did not achieve at least a proficient score;
- Successful completion of a pre-apprenticeship program (ex. German American Chamber of Commerce); or
- Acceptance in an accredited 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework.
- Advanced Placement (AP) exam: score of 3 on an AP exam related to one of the following courses
 - Algebra Equivalent: AP Calculus AB, AP Statistics, AP Computer Science A
 - Literature Equivalent: AP Literature and Composition
 - Biology Equivalent: AP Biology, AP Environmental Science

Option 3: Evidence Based Pathway: Successful completion of locally established grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve proficiency and demonstration of three pieces of evidence consistent with the student's goals and career plans, including

- **One of the following:**
 - Attainment of an established score on a SAT subject test, an Advanced Placement Program Exam:
 - SAT Subject Test: score of 630
 - AP program exam: score of 3
 - AP Psychology, AP Microeconomics
 - Acceptance to an accredited nonprofit institution of higher education other than a 4-year institution and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework
 - Attainment of an [industry-recognized credential](#)
 - Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment (dual enrolled course) or postsecondary course; and
- **Two additional pieces of evidence, including:**
 - One or more of the options listed above
 - Satisfactory completion of a service learning project; 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; or satisfactory compliance with the NCAA's core courses for college-bound student athletes with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0.

Option 4: CTE Pathway: For Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrators, successful completion of locally established grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve proficiency and attainment of an industry-based competency certification related to the CTE Concentrator's program of study or demonstration of 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. For further explanation of the CTE Pathway, [please see PDE's Act 6 guidance](#).

Pennsylvania Pathways to Graduation

Keystone Proficiency Pathway Numeric or Non-Numeric Scores

Algebra I
Proficient or Advanced

Biology
Proficient or Advanced

Literature
Proficient or Advanced

Keystone Composite Pathway Numeric Scores Only

At least 1 Keystone Exam scaled score is **1500 or Greater**

No Keystone Exam score is **Below Basic**

The Keystone Exam 3-score composite is **4452 or Greater**
The Keystone Exam 2-score composite is **2939 or Greater**
(where eligible under §121.1)

CTE Concentrator

Meet locally established, grade-based requirements for Keystone content in which the student is less than Proficient

CTE Concentrator
1 Artifact from pathway criteria

Alternative Assessment

Meet locally established, grade-based requirements for Keystone content in which the student is less than Proficient

Alternative Assessment
1 Artifact from pathway criteria

Evidence-Based Pathways

Meet locally established, grade-based requirements for Keystone content in which the student is less than Proficient

Evidence-Based
3 Artifacts from pathway criteria

Waiver

A student in 12th grade, or experiencing extenuating circumstances, who meets locally established grade-based requirements for Keystone content area(s) in which the student is less than proficient, and is unable to satisfy the requirements of a graduation pathway may be granted a waiver by the chief school administrator.

Individualized Education Plan

A student with a disability who is unable to satisfy pathway requirements but who satisfactorily completes a special education program is granted a diploma under Title 22 §4.24.

NOTE: Although this infographic displays a sequential progression, students may fulfill criteria under the CTE Concentrator, Alternative Assessment, or Evidence-Based Pathways prior to demonstrating proficiency in Keystone academic content through Keystone Exam scores or locally established grade-based requirements.

Pathway Criteria

CTE Concentrator	Alternative Assessment	Evidence-Based
1 Artifact	1 Artifact	3 Artifacts consistent w/student goals ONE or more from Section One No more than TWO from Section Two
<p>Industry-based competency certification</p> <hr/> <p>Likelihood of industry-based competency assessment success</p> <hr/> <p>Readiness for continued engagement in CTE Concentrator program of study</p>	<p>Attainment of one alternative assessment score or better: ACT (21), ASVAB AFQT (31), PSAT/NMSQT (970), or SAT (1010)</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of Gold Level or better on ACT WorkKeys</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of 3 or better on AP Exam(s) related to each Keystone content area in which less than Proficient</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of 4 or better on IB Exam(s) related to each Keystone content area in which less than Proficient</p> <hr/> <p>Successful completion of concurrent enrollment course(s) related to each Keystone content area in which less than Proficient</p> <hr/> <p>Successful completion of a pre-apprenticeship program</p> <hr/> <p>Acceptance into accredited, non-profit Institution of Higher Education (IHE) 4yr program for college-level coursework</p>	<p>Section 1</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of 630 or better on any SAT Subject Test</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of Silver Level or better on ACT WorkKeys</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of 3 or better on any AP Exam</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of 3 or better on any IB Exam</p> <hr/> <p>Successful completion of any concurrent enrollment or postsecondary course</p> <hr/> <p>Industry-recognized credentialization</p> <hr/> <p>Acceptance into accredited, non-profit Institution of Higher Education (IHE) for college-level coursework in an other-than-4yr program</p> <hr/> <p>Section 2</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of Proficient or Advanced on any Keystone Exam</p> <hr/> <p>Successful completion of a service-learning project</p> <hr/> <p>Letter guaranteeing full-time employment or military enlistment</p> <hr/> <p>Completion of an internship, externship, or cooperative education program</p> <hr/> <p>Compliance with NCAA Division II academic requirements</p>

More information can be found on the [Pennsylvania Department of Education's website](#).