



HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHARLES M. REINA, Ed.D., Superintendent

MICHAEL E. ALLISON
PRINCIPAL

HOPEWELL HIGH SCHOOL
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DOUGLASS C. ROWE
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

November 27, 2012

Dear Hopewell High School Parents and students:

All grade 11 students and most grade 10 students will be participating in Keystone Exams during the 2012-2013 school year. These exams replace the PSSA tests that our high school students took in prior years.

Keystone Exams are Pennsylvania Department of Education mandated tests to evaluate individual student attainment of proficiency in core subject areas. The Keystone Exams will also be used to establish school level attainment of AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) as described in the NCLB (No Child Left Behind).

All parents are asked to stress the importance of each child giving his/her best effort.

Why should your child do their best on Keystone Exams?

- You should know that Keystone Exam proficiency levels are recorded on student transcripts.
 - Students receive individual score reports indicating their proficiency levels.
 - Students not scoring proficient/advanced are required to continue to take the tests in order to raise their scores.
 - Our overall school score is based on the combined proficiency levels of all students tested.
- If you have questions regarding the PSSA testing at Hopewell High School, please contact your child's counselor at 724-375-6691.
- Dr. Janice Dreshman – students with last names A-G
- Mrs. Maria Vanyo – students with last names H-O
- Mr. Rich Collins – students with last names P-Z

Additional information regarding each specific Keystone Exam including assessment dates and who will be required to participate is included on the back of this page for your reference.

Sincerely,

Michael Allison, Principal

Keystone Exam Plan
Up to date as of 11/29/2012

When?	Winter Test Window Dec 3-14, 2012 Wave 1	Spring Test Window May 13-24, 2013
Subject	Who will test?	Who will test?
Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Grade 11 students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All grade 11 who were not proficient on December test • All grade 10 students who are completing English 10.
Algebra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Grade 11 students. • All Grade 10 who have completed Algebra or Algebra 1B prior to September 2012. • All grade 9 who have previously completed Algebra or Algebra 1B prior to September 2012. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Grade 11 students who were not proficient on December test. • All Grade 10 who have completed Algebra or Algebra 1B. • All students in grade 9 or 10 who are currently enrolled in (and completing) Algebra 1 or Algebra 1B. • All grade 9 students who have previously completed Algebra or Algebra 1B who were not proficient on December test.
Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Grade 11 students. • All Grade 10 students who have completed Biology prior to September 2012. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Grade 11 students who were not proficient on December test. • All Grade 10 who have previously completed Biology who were not proficient on December test. • All students in grade 9 who are currently enrolled in (and completing) Biology.
	<p>Students who do not score proficient or advanced in the reading and math assessments will be provided opportunities for remediation and will be required to participate in future retests in order to raise their scores to the proficient level.</p>	

Information for Parents or Guardians

Pennsylvania Keystone Exams



What are the Keystone Exams?

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to evaluate proficiency in academic content. Beginning with the class of 2017, students must demonstrate proficiency on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams to graduate. Students will be offered multiple opportunities to take the keystones throughout their high school careers.

Who will participate in the Keystone Exams?

Beginning in 2012-2013 the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams will replace the 11th grade Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests in mathematics, reading, and science for purposes of satisfying No Child Left Behind (NCLB)/Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements. Therefore, all students in grade 11 must participate in the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams. Additionally, students in any grade who are enrolled in a Keystone related course should participate.

When will the exams be offered?

The Keystone Exams will be administered three times each year—winter, spring, and summer. Specific administration dates will be published by the Pennsylvania Department of Education on the SAS website at www.pdesas.org.

Who decided what Keystone Exams should measure?

Groups of educators from across Pennsylvania chose the areas of knowledge on which the Keystone Exams are based. The groups included teachers, supervisors, curriculum

directors, and college specialists. These groups also reviewed, edited, and approved exam questions.

What is assessed on the Keystone Exams?

Pennsylvania adopted the Common Core Standards, standards aligned with expectations for success in college and the workplace. The keystones are designed to measure these standards.

How long is a Keystone Exam administration?

There is no time limit for a student to complete a Keystone Exam. Each Keystone Exam should take the typical student 2 to 3 hours to complete. There are two modules on each test, and each module (or Test Session) of the Keystone Exam should take 1 to 1.5 hours to complete. Districts may select to administer the entire Keystone Exam at once or do each module on separate, consecutive days.

What are the available formats for administering the Keystone Exams?

The Keystone Exams are available in both online and paper/pencil formats. Districts will determine if online, paper/pencil, or both formats will be used locally. Makeup exams will also be administered in either online or paper/pencil format.

Will students have an opportunity to experience online testing before taking a Keystone Exam online?

Tutorials and online training programs have been developed for the Keystone Exams. The PA Online Assessment Student Tutorial uses pictures, motion, and sound to present visual and verbal descriptions of the properties and

features of the PA Online Assessment system. Students are allowed to repeat the Student Tutorial as often as desired and needed. The Online Tools Training (OTT) provides an introductory experience using the PA online assessment software allowing students to observe and try out features of the PA online assessment software prior to the actual assessment. Within the OTT, students also have the opportunity to practice typing responses in a narrative format, graphing functions, and entering equations using an equation builder tool. The online exam also has a "Help" feature that is available to the student during the exam.

What types of questions are on the Keystone Exams?

The Keystone Exams will include multiple-choice questions and constructed-response, or open-ended, questions. For each Keystone Exam, approximately 60% to 75% of the total score will be from multiple-choice questions and 25% to 40% of the total score will be from constructed-response questions. The English Composition Keystone Exam will be an exception, with 20% of the total score from multiple-choice questions and 80% of the total score from constructed-response questions.

How are the written responses to constructed-response questions scored?

The written responses for constructed-response questions are scored by evaluators trained in applying a pre-determined scoring system. Scores are based on content only. Except for English Composition, spelling and punctuation are not included as part of the scoring process. Most constructed-response questions require students to show their work or explain their reasoning. These Keystone Exam questions will ask students to explain, analyze, describe, or compare. Some questions will also require students to perform

calculations or create graphs, plots, or drawings.

How are the results reported?

Keystone Exam scores will be processed as quickly as possible and provided to the districts.

Two copies of the individual student report for all Keystone Exams will be sent to the school districts and charter schools. One copy should be sent home to parents/guardians; the other is kept by the school/district.

School-level reports will be used for curricular and planning purposes. School districts and charter schools may publish the results of Keystone Exams for each school. The state will also release school-by-school exam data.

May parents see the Keystone Exams?

Parents and guardians may review the Keystone Exams if they believe they may be in conflict with their religious beliefs by making arrangements with the School Test Coordinator once the exams arrive at the school. Confidentiality agreements must be signed, and no copies of the Keystone Exams or notes about exam questions will be permitted to leave the school.

If, after reviewing the Keystone Exams, parents or guardians do not want their child to participate in one or all of the exams due to a conflict with their religious beliefs, they may write to the school district superintendent or charter school CAO prior to the beginning of the exam(s) to request to excuse their child from the exam(s).

For additional information about the Keystone Exams, visit the SAS website at www.pdesas.org or contact your school district.