

The statewide graduation requirement for students in the class of 2023 and beyond can be met through one of the following five pathways:

In accordance with Pennsylvania's Act 158, beginning with the graduating class of 2023, students must meet statewide graduation requirements in one of five ways.

Pathways 1 and 2 - Keystone Pathways:

Specific scores on the Pennsylvania Keystone Exams are an acceptable pathway for graduation:

- **Pathway 1 - Keystone Proficiency Pathway:** Scoring proficient or advanced on each of the Keystone Exams - Algebra I, Literature, and Biology.
- **Pathway 2 - Keystone Composite Pathway:** Earning a composite score of 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 exams).

Pathway 3 - Alternate Assessment Pathway:

Earning a passing grade in the courses associated with each of the Keystone Exams on which a score of proficiency was not achieved AND satisfactorily completing **one** of the following:

- Attainment of an established score on an approved alternate assessment (SAT, PSAT, ACT, ASVAB);
 - SAT: score of 1010
 - PSAT: score of 970
 - ACT: score of 21
 - ASVAB: the minimum score to gain admittance to a branch of the armed services in the year the student graduates
- Attainment of Gold Level on the ACT WorkKeys Assessment.
- Successful completion of dual enrollment courses in the academic content areas 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).
- Acceptance in an accredited 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework. (i.e. letter of acceptance, placement test results).

- Attainment of a 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement Exam in an academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve at least a proficient score.
- **Advanced Placement (AP) Exam: score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam related to one of the following courses**

Algebra Equivalent	Literature Equivalent	Biology Equivalent
AP Calculus AB	AP Literature and Composition	AP Biology
AP Calculus BC		AP Chemistry
AP Statistics		AP Physics 1: Algebra Based
AP Physics 1: Algebra Based		
AP Chemistry		

Pathway 4 - Evidence Based Pathway: Earning a passing grade in the courses associated with each of the Keystone Exams on which a score of proficiency was not achieved AND demonstrating **three** pieces of evidence consistent with the student's goals and career plans, including at least **one** of the following pieces of evidence (may include all three pieces of evidence):

- 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
- Attainment of Silver Level or better on ACT WorkKeys Assessment.
- 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 (i.e. letter of acceptance, placement test results).
- Attainment of an industry-recognized credential.
- Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment (i.e. dual enrollment) or postsecondary course; and

No more than **two** of the following pieces of evidence:

- Satisfactory completion of a service learning project. Project proposals must be presented in writing to a school counselor for pre-approval by the principal. The proposal should include goals, activities, and contributions to the community. Projects must be supervised by an adult and completion must be verified in writing. (i.e. NHS, Junior Rotarians, Boy Scouts, etc.)
- Attainment of a score of proficient or advanced on a Keystone Exam.
- A letter from an employer guaranteeing full-time employment.
- A certificate of successful completion of an internship or cooperative education program.

- Satisfactory compliance with the NCAA's core courses for college-bound student athletes with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0.

Pathway 5 – Career and Technical Education Pathway (CTE): Earning a passing grade in the courses associated with each of the Keystone Exams on which a score of proficiency was not achieved AND satisfactorily completing **one** of the following:

- Attainment of an industry-based competency certification related to the CTE Concentrator's program of study.
- Demonstration of a high likelihood of success on an approved industry-based competency assessment. The National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) or the National Institute of Metal working Skills (NIMS).
- 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.

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