

ABINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
ABINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

SUPERINTENDENT'S
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

REGARDING: **Secondary Curriculum for
the 21st Century**

Section: **Superintendent's
Committees**

Effective Date: November 2010

Reissued: See Also:

Background

In 2010, following approvals by the state's Independent Regulatory Review Commission and the Attorney General, the State Board of Education published changes to Chapter 4 that set new high school graduation requirements for students, beginning with the class of 2015.

Under the new regulation,

- High school graduation requirements through the 2013-14 school year must include:
 - Course completion and grades
 - Completion of a culminating project
 - Results of local assessments aligned with the academic standards and a demonstration of proficiency in reading, writing and mathematics on either the State assessments administered in grade 11 or 12 or local assessments aligned with academic standards and level or better.
- Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, high school graduation requirements include:
 - Course completion and grades
 - Completion of a culminating project in one or more areas of concentrated study under the guidance and direction of the high school faculty.
 - Demonstration of proficiency or above in Algebra I, Biology, Literature and English Composition as assessed through any one or a combination of the following:
 - Successful completion of the academic course for which the student performance on the State-developed Keystone Exam counts as at least 33% of the course grade

- Score proficient or above on locally approved, administered and independently validated assessments.
- Score proficient or above on state-developed Keystone Exams used as a “stand-alone” graduation requirement
- Score on Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams at a level established by the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education to be comparable to the proficient level on the related content area Keystone Exam.
- Demonstration of proficiency in each of the state academic standards not assessed by a state assessment.
- Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, high school graduation requirements expand to include the following courses with the same options for demonstrating proficiency as listed above:
 - Two mathematics courses (Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry)
 - One science course (Biology or Chemistry)
 - One Social Studies course (Civics and Government, U.S. History, or World History)
- Students with disabilities who satisfactorily complete a special education program developed by an Individualized Education Program team under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and this part shall be granted and issued a regular high school diploma.

In order that students in Abington School District will be prepared to meet the graduation requirements as delineated above, it is imperative that the district consider the new graduation requirements, review its current secondary school course sequence and curricula, options for students to take rigorous national assessments, procedures related to weighting grades, calculating grade point average and determining class rank, and plan for changes needed for students to meet the graduation requirements.

Committee Charge

The Abington School District Secondary Curriculum Committee is established to review the changes to the Pennsylvania School Code, Chapter 4, which apply to graduation requirements and are scheduled to take effect with the class of 2015 and the additional requirements which are scheduled to take effect with the class of 2017 and to:

- A. Review the new graduation requirements and options established in the 2010 revision of the Pennsylvania School Code, Chapter 4.
 1. Consider whether the district should develop local assessments to measure proficiency in any of the areas that students are required to demonstrate proficiency. If such a need exists, develop a proposal to address the procedure for development and validation as well as a plan which provides a cost/benefit analysis.

2. Determine, for each academic area, the better option for the use of the Keystone Exams as the vehicle for Abington students to demonstrate proficiency.
 3. Propose an implementation process and schedule for Abington School District students to meet the graduation requirements established in the 2010 revision of the Pennsylvania School Code, Chapter 4.
- B. Review the Abington School District secondary course curricula for English, mathematics, science and social studies to determine the alignment with the PDE-issued blueprints for the proposed Keystone Exams and with the Common Core Standards. Propose changes needed in the course sequence and/or in the course content, associate each Keystone Exam with a specific course, and suggest a timeline for completing the necessary changes.
 - C. Review AP exams that are aligned with the content of the proposed Keystone Exams and develop a plan for students to have the option of meeting graduation requirements by successful completion of one or more of these assessments.
 - D. With the goal of presenting every student's academic achievements in the best light on college and career applications, review each of the following and, if changes are needed in the current procedures, make appropriate recommendations:
 - o Professional literature and college admission data related to AP testing, weighted grades, the calculation of the grade point average and the procedure for determining class rank
 - o Reporting formats to present student achievement on college and career applications
 - E. Propose a revision to the Superintendent's Administrative Procedure regarding Academic Proficiency and Requirements for Graduation. Include provisions for options allowed by Chapter 4 of the Pennsylvania School Code.

Committee Timeline

November, 2010 - March, 2011	Tasks A and B
April, 2011 - May, 2011	Task C
June, 2011 – October, 2011	Task D
October, 2011 – December, 2011	Task E

Committee Membership

Dr. Ann Bacon	Co-Chair, Director of Curriculum
Dr. Jeffrey Fecher	Co-Chair, Principal, Abington Senior High School
Ms. Erica Affleck	English Teacher, Abington Junior High School
Ms. Sheila Allen	Supervisor of Special Education
Dr. Richard Balukas	Director of Special Education
Mr. Howard Baxter	Supervisor of Music K-12 and Coordinator of Elementary Art
Mr. David Bergman	Special Education Teacher, Abington Junior High School

Mr. Ronald Brison	Assistant Principal, Abington Junior High School
Mr. Kristopher Brown	Social Studies Teacher, Abington Senior High School
Ms. Kathryn Christiana	Supervisor of Gifted Education
Breeana Darden	Student Representative, Abington Senior High School
Richard Donahue	Student Representative, Abington Junior High School
Dr. Kelly Doyle	Supervisor of Communication Arts
Mr. Keith Eckenrode	Special Education Teacher, Copper Beech Elementary School
Sabrina Farmer	Student Representative, Abington Junior High School
Ms. Jaime Farrington	Social Studies Teacher, Abington Senior High School
Paul Feldman, Esquire	Community Representative
Jordan Finkelstein	Student Representative, Abington Junior High School
Ms. Stephanie Gates	Social Studies Teacher, Abington Junior High School
Dr. Suzanne Grim	School Psychologist, Willow Hill Elementary School
Mr. Edward Harkins	Mathematics Department chair, Abington Junior High School
Ms. Kathleen Hauger	Social Studies Department Chair, Abington Senior High School
Ms. Denise James	English Department Chair, Abington Junior High School
Ms. Mindy Katz	English Teacher, Abington Senior High School
Ms. Nicole Kazarian	World Language Teacher, Abington Junior High School
Ms. Bonnie Keiles	Coordinator of Special Education, Abington Junior High School
Mr. Timothy Keller	Science Department Chair, Abington Junior High School
Mrs. Andrea Lawful-Trainer	Board of School Directors
Mr. James Lodewick	English Department Chair, Abington Senior High School
Mrs. Jeannette Maitin	Board of School Directors
Ms. Rochelle Marbury	Elementary Curriculum Specialist, Roslyn Elementary School
Ms. Julie Martinez	English Teacher, Abington Senior High School
Raymond McGarry, Esquire	Board of School Directors
Ms. Denise Mendez	Coordinator of Mathematics and Elementary Science
Ms. Barbara O'Neill	Mathematics Teacher, Abington Senior High School
Dr. Susan Packer	Parent/School District Physician
Mr. Bradley Palmer	Science Department Chair, Abington Senior High School
Dr. Mark Pellico	Supervisor of Pupil Services
Ms. Jennifer Repetto	Mathematics Teacher, Abington Junior High School
Mr. James Rizzuto	Mathematics Department Chair, Abington Senior High School
Cameron Ross	Student Representative, Abington Senior High School
Ms. Janine Sack	Reading Department Chair, Abington Junior High School
Ms. Julianne Schlisman	Social Studies Department Chair, Abington Junior High School
Adam Share, Esquire	Board of School Directors
Ms. Gale Siegel	Senior Director of Student Affairs, Penn State, Abington College
Mr. Joseph Tagliaferro	Coordinator of Student Support Services, Abington Senior High School
Mr. James Waters	Community Representative
Dr. Matthew Wexler	Coordinator of Student Support Services, Abington Junior High School
Mr. Ryan Williams	AEA Representative; Science Teacher, Abington Senior High School