

Act 158: Keystone Pathways to Graduation

*5 Pathways to Graduation :
Explained*



5 Pathways to Graduation

[Act 158 of 2018](#) provides an outline of five distinct pathways to meet graduation requirements.

[Act 136 of 2020](#) postponed graduation requirements to now begin with the Class of 2023.



Pathway 1 : Keystone *Proficiency*

Student will earn **proficient or advanced** on all three Keystone Exams:

- Algebra I
- Literature
- Biology



Pathway 2 : Keystone *Composite*

Student will earn proficient or advanced on at least one Keystone exam, *and* score at least basic on the other two Keystone exams, *and* have a composite score of at least **4452**.

- Algebra I
- Literature
- Biology



Pathway 3 : Career & Technical Education (CTE)

Student will meet local requirements for academic content covered by the Keystone exams for all subjects where they did not earn proficiency on the exam, *AND* either

- Attain an industry-based competency certification related to the CTE Concentrator program of study

OR

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



Pathway 4 : Alternate Assessment

Student will meet local requirements for academic content covered by the Keystone exams for all subjects where they did not earn proficiency on the 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 and scores are:

- AP (3), IB (4), PSAT (970), SAT (1010), ACT (21)
- ACT WorkKeys: Gold Level
- ASVAB - minimum score to gain admittance to a branch of the armed services in the year of graduation

OR

- (next slide)



Pathway 4 : Alternate Assessment

Student will meet local requirements for academic content covered by the Keystone exams for all subjects where they did not earn proficiency on the exam, *AND* **one of the following**:

- Successfully complete a concurrent 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 the respective Keystone exam
 - Passing grade on the approved concurrent course
 - High school or college transcript as evidence

OR

- (next slide)



Pathway 4 : Alternate Assessment

Student will meet local requirements for academic content covered by the Keystone exams for all subjects where they did not earn proficiency on the exam, *AND* **one of the following**:

- 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, PA Department of Labor and Industry
 - Meets all pre-apprenticeship program requirements, per specific industry requirements

OR

- (next slide)



Pathway 4 : Alternate Assessment

Student will meet local requirements for academic content covered by the Keystone exams for all subjects where they did not earn proficiency on the exam, *AND* one of the following:

- 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 indicating 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

Student will meet local requirements for academic content covered by the Keystone exams for all subjects where they did not earn proficiency on the exam, *AND* **three (3) pieces of evidence**:

- At least one (1) of the following:
 - Attainment of an established score on an alternate assessment
 - SAT Subject Test (630), ACT WorkKeys (Silver), AP (3) or IB (3)
 - Acceptance to an accredited nonprofit institution of higher education other than a 4-year institution
 - Acceptance letter, placement test results, college registration form, local profile of acceptable HS GPA, attendance record, SAT/ACT score
 - Attainment of an industry-recognized credential
 - Documentation that verifies attainment as defined by the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
 - Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment or postsecondary course
 - Credit bearing non-remedial course, approved concurrent course aligned to the respective Keystone exam, passing grade on an approved concurrent course, high school or college transcript as evidence

AND...



Pathway 5 : Evidence-Based

- Up to two (2) of the following:
 - Service-learning project completion
 - Must include 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)
 - Proficient or advanced on a Keystone exam
 - Scaled score of 1500 or higher on one Keystone exam
 - Letter guaranteeing full-time employment
 - Internship or Cooperative Education Program
 - Compliance with NCAA's core courses for college-bound student athletes
 - Minimum GPA requirements (2.0) in approved NCAA core courses



Alternatives to Pathways

- (1) Graduation based on IEP team decisions based upon academic goals
- (2) Superintendent's waiver for students with extenuating circumstances (no greater than 5%)

