

Changes to keystones and Project-Based Assessments

What has changed in terms of PDE requirements?

Pennsylvania has amended graduation requirements specific to Keystone Exams. As stated in Senate Bill 880, which was passed on January 20, 2016, "the use of the Keystone Exam as a graduation requirement or as a benchmark for the need for participation in a project-based assessment shall be delayed until the 2018-2019 school year." This changes the graduation requirements for students in the Class of 2017 and the Class of 2018, who will no longer be required to demonstrate proficiency on the Literature, Algebra, and Biology Keystone Exams in order to graduate. Effective with the Class of 2019, proficiency on all three Keystone Exams as a graduation requirement will be in effect.

What has stayed the same?

Keystone Exams in Literature, Algebra I, and Biology are still required to be administered by the school district and taken by students. These skills are still necessary for college readiness. The district still has a responsibility and expectation to provide support for students who are not yet proficient.

Where is The District in terms of these changes?

Even though Keystone Exams will not be a graduation requirement for the graduating classes of 2017 and 2018, students will be required to take these exams. The District will continue to support students that are not yet scoring "Proficient" or "Advanced" so they are prepared for post-secondary education, career, and life.

Where can I find more information on the Keystone Exams?

To view more information regarding the Keystone Exams, please visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website:

<http://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/Pages/default.aspx#tab-1>