



QUAKERTOWN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

September 18, 2022

In 2018, Act 158 was signed into law outlining state graduation requirements and the ways in which Keystone Exams factor into these requirements. State graduation requirements are effective for students in the Classes of 2023 and beyond. In order to graduate from high school, students must meet all [local graduation requirements](#) related to credits and coursework along with the [state requirements outlined in Act 158](#).

Students must meet one of Pennsylvania's five pathways outlined below to earn a diploma and demonstrate career and/or college readiness. More information regarding Pennsylvania's state graduation requirements can be found on the high school webpage.

Administrators and school counselors will be working closely with each student to review and help students decide which pathway is best to meet this state-wide graduation requirement.

Please don't hesitate to call the school and make an appointment to speak with your child's counselor if you have questions about Act 158 and/or your student's pathway to graduation. Although students will no longer be required to achieve proficiency on the Keystone Exams to meet the statewide graduation requirement, students must still take the Keystone Exams for purposes of federal accountability.

ACT 158 – State Graduation Pathways

For students graduating in 2023 and beyond, the following pathway options exist to meet state graduation requirements:

- **Keystone Proficiency Pathway:** Scoring proficient or advanced on all three Keystone Exams (Algebra I, Literature, and Biology)
- **Keystone Composite Pathway:** Earning a satisfactory composite score (4452) on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams (while achieving at least one proficient/advanced score and no score of below basic on the remaining two).
- **Alternate Assessment Pathway:** Successful completion of locally established, grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam (i.e. passing final course grades in Algebra I, Biology, and English 10) and one of the following:
 - Attainment of an established score on an approved alternate assessment:
 - SAT (1010), PSAT (970), ACT (21), ASVAB (31)
 - Gold Level on the ACT WorkKeys Assessment
 - Attainment of 3 or better on an Advanced Placement Program exam in an

- academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve at least a proficient score
 - Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment course (college dual enrollment class) in an academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam in which the student did not achieve at least a proficient score
 - Successful completion of a pre-apprenticeship program
 - Acceptance in an accredited 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework
- **Evidence Based Pathway:** Successful completion of locally established, grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam (i.e., Passing final course grades in Algebra I, Biology, and English 10) and demonstration of three pieces of evidence consistent with the student’s goals and career plans, including:
 - ONE or more of the following:
 - Attainment of 630 or better on any SAT Subject Area Test
 - Attainment of Silver Level on the ACT WorkKeys assessment
 - Attainment of 3 or better on any Advanced Placement Program Exam
 - Acceptance to an other-than-4-year Institution of Higher Education (IHE) for college-level coursework
 - Attainment of an industry-recognized credential
 - Successful completion of any concurrent enrollment or postsecondary course
 - And no more than TWO additional pieces of evidence from the following:
 - Satisfactory completion of a service-learning project
 - Attainment of a score of proficient or advanced on any Keystone Exam
 - Letter guaranteeing full-time employment or military enlistment
 - Successful completion of an internship or cooperative education program
 - Satisfactory compliance with the NCAA’s Division II academic requirements
- **Career and Technical Education Pathway:** Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrators: Successful completion of locally established, gradebased requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam (i.e., Passing final course grades in Algebra I, Biology, and English 10) and ONE of the following:
 - Attainment of an industry-based competency certification
 - Demonstration of the high likelihood of success on an industry-based competency assessment
 - Readiness for continued engagement in the CTE Concentrator’s program of study

We are working through this change in graduation requirements together and stand ready to support you with any question you may have.

Sincerely,

Mattias van ‘t Hoenderdaal
Principal, QCHS