



Northwest Area School District

Graduation Pathway Options

Act 158 was signed into law on October 24, 2018, shifting Pennsylvania’s reliance on high stakes testing as a graduation requirement. Act 158 of 2018, in conjunction with Act 6 of 2017, expands the options for students to demonstrate postsecondary readiness. Formerly, Pennsylvania’s statewide graduation requirements were more restrictive, requiring most students to pass the Keystone Exams - end of course exams in Algebra I, Literature, and Biology. The new statewide graduation requirements were set to take effect starting with the graduating class of 2022. However, on November 25, 2020, the Governor signed Senate Bill 1216, making it Act 136 of 2020. Act 136 shifted the new statewide graduation requirements to take effect starting with the class of 2023. It did not modify the actual requirements. Act 158 of 2018 establishes five pathways for students to demonstrate college, career, and community readiness. The High School guidance team is available to support students in determining the pathways to graduation that are appropriate and achievable for each individual student.

<p>1. Keystone Proficiency Pathway:</p>	<p>To be eligible for this graduation pathway the student will need to achieve at least a proficient score on all three Keystone Exams.</p>
<p>2. Keystone Composite Pathway:</p>	<p>To be eligible for this graduation pathway the student will need to achieve an overall composite score of 4452 on all three of their Keystone Exams. In order to do this...</p> <p>→ The student will need to achieve a proficient score of 1500 or higher on at least 1 exam and an average basic score of 1476 on the other 2 exams (this number may slide based on the specific score of which the student achieves in each category). ***A score of below basic is not eligible for this pathway.</p>
<p>3. Alternate Assessment Pathway:</p>	<p>To be eligible for this graduation pathway the student will need a passing grade in each of the Keystone trigger courses associated with each of the Keystone Exams on which the student did not achieve proficiency AND satisfactorily completing one of the following:</p> <p>→ Attainment of an established score on an approved alternate assessment: SAT (1010) PSAT (970) ACT (21) ASVAB (31)</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Gold Level on the ACT WorkKeys Assessment; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Attainment of an established score of 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement Test associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve at least a proficient score (Algebra= AP Calculus or Chemistry; Literature= AP English Literature; Biology= AP Biology, Environmental, or Chemistry); → Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment course (Dual Enrollment or Young Scholars) 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 (LCCC Certificate of Specialization & WSCTC); → Acceptance in an accredited 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education (college/university) and submission of supporting documents (i.e. letter of acceptance, placement test results, etc.).
<p>4. Evidence Based Pathway</p>	<p>To be eligible for this graduation pathway the student will need a passing grade in each of the Keystone trigger courses associated with each of the Keystone Exams on which the student did not achieve proficiency AND demonstration of three pieces of evidence consistent with the student's goals and career plans. To include one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Attainment of Silver Level on the ACT WorkKeys assessment → Attainment of a 630 SAT subject test → Attainment of an established score of 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement Test associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve at least a proficient score (Algebra= AP Calculus or Chemistry; Literature= AP English Literature; Biology= AP Biology, Environmental, or Chemistry) → Acceptance in an accredited 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education



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	<p>(college/university) and submission of supporting documents (i.e. letter of acceptance, placement test results, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Attainment of an industry-recognized credential; (LCCC Certificate of Specialization or WSCTC); → Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment course (Dual Enrollment or Young Scholars) in an academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam in which the student did not achieve at least a proficient score; And two additional pieces of evidence, including one or more of the options listed above, or: → Satisfactory completion of a service learning project. Project proposals must be presented in writing to a guidance counselor for pre-approval by the principal/assistant 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. National Honor Society, Junior Rotarians, Boy Scouts, etc.) → Attainment of a score of proficient or advanced on a Keystone Exam; → A letter guaranteeing full-time employment; → A certificate of successful completion of an internship or cooperative education program (LCCC Certificate of Specialization or WSCTC); → Satisfactory compliance with the NCAA's core courses for college-bound student athletes with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0.
<p>5. Career and Technical Education Pathway</p>	<p>To be eligible for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrators, successful completion of locally established grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve proficiency and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Attainment of an industry-based competency certification related to the CTE Concentrator's program of study.



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	<p>→ Demonstration of a high likelihood of success on an approved industry-based competency assessment (NOCTI or NIMS) or readiness for continued meaningful engagement in the CTE Concentrator's program of study.</p>
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For additional guidance and resources, please visit:
<https://www.pdesas.org/Page/Viewer/ViewPage/56/>