



Dear WAACS Families,

On September 29, 2020, the Pennsylvania State Legislature passed Senate Bill 1216, making several revisions for previous legislation regarding state assessments and graduation requirements. This message serves to inform our families of these legislative revisions and to provide clarity around the implications for your children. Please read the detailed information below.

### **Keystone Exam Participation:**

The Keystone Exams are end of course assessments designed to assess proficiency in the subject areas of Algebra 1, Biology, and Literature. Any student who was enrolled in Algebra 1, Biology, and/or English 10 during the spring semester of the 2019-2020 school year was scheduled to take the Keystone Exams in the Spring of 2020. These students will be automatically rostered to sit for the exam during the 2020-2021 school year; however, a parent/guardian may choose to opt their child out of taking the exam(s).

Any student who is enrolled in Algebra 1, Biology, and English 10 during the **current** 2020-2021 school year will be automatically rostered to sit for the Keystone Exam during the semester they are enrolled in the respective courses; however, a parent/guardian may choose to opt their child out of taking the exam(s).

**To opt your child out of taking one or more Keystone Exam(s), a parent/guardian must complete the [Opt-Out form](#) by 11:59pm on January 15, 2021 so we can plan accordingly. You will receive a receipt upon completion of the form.**

### **Winter 2020-2021 Keystone Exam Administration:**

To provide the safest testing environment, the Keystone Exams will be facilitated in the building at WAACS in separated cohorts based on whether students are hybrid or virtual.

Click Here for the [WAACS Keystone Exam Schedule 2020-2021](#)

Click Here for the [WAACS Keystone Exam Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) 2020-2021](#)



**Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2023 and beyond:**

Senate Bill 1216 delayed the timeline for enforcing Keystone Exam proficiency as a graduation requirement until the Class of 2023.

**Important Note About Opting-Out of Keystone Exams**

While Senate Bill 1216 grants families the ability to opt-out of the exam, it does not exempt students in the Class of 2023 and beyond from the graduation requirements enacted with Act 158. ***Please understand that students in the Class of 2023 and beyond will still be required to demonstrate proficiency in Algebra 1, Literature, and Biology by successfully completing one of the 5 Pathways below.***

**1. Pathway 1: Keystone Proficiency**

- Scoring “Proficient” or “Advanced” on all three Keystone Exams (Algebra 1, Biology, and Literature)

**2. Pathway 2: Keystone Composite Score**

- Earning a satisfactory composite score on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams. The Composite Pathway requirements are:
  - Score at least 1500 on one of the three Keystone Exams (Proficient), and
  - Have an overall composite score of 4500 for all three Keystone Exams

Content Area	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Algebra I	1200-1438	1439-1499	1500-1545	1546-1800
Biology	1200-1459	1460-1499	1500-1548	1549-1800
Literature	1200-1443	1444-1499	1500-1583	1584-1800

**3. Pathway 3: Career & Technical Education:**

- Earning a passing grade in a Keystone-aligned course **AND** either:
  - Attaining an industry-based competency certification related to the (CTE) Concentrator’s program of study

**OR**



- Demonstrating a high likelihood of success on an approved industry-based competency assessment or readiness for continued meaningful engagement in the (CTE) Concentrator's program of study

#### 4. Pathway 4: Alternate Assessment

- Earning a passing grade in a Keystone-aligned course **AND** one of the following:
  - Attain the minimum score on one of the following subject-aligned tests where the student did not earn proficiency:
    - Advanced Placement (AP) Exam - 3
    - Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT) - 970
    - Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) - 1010
    - American College Testing (ACT) - 21
    - Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) - minimum score required to gain admittance to a branch of the armed services in the year the student graduates

**OR**

- Successfully complete a pre-apprenticeship program

**OR**

- Be accepted in an accredited 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education and have evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework

#### 5. Pathway 5: Evidence-Based

- Earning a passing grade in a Keystone-aligned course **AND** three pieces of evidence

**At least one of the following:**

- Acceptance to a 4-year accredited nonprofit institution of higher education
- Attainment of an industry-recognized credential
- Successful completion of a dual enrollment or postsecondary course

**And up to two additional pieces from the following:**

- Satisfactory completion of a service-learning project



- “Proficient” or “Advanced” score on a Keystone Exam
- A letter guaranteeing full-time employment
- Certificate of successful completion of an internship or cooperative education
- Satisfactory compliance with the NCAA’s core courses for college-bound student athletes with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0.

Families of current 10<sup>th</sup> graders should consider the Act 158 graduation requirement and begin planning for the alternate pathway to graduation should they choose to not take the Keystone Exam(s). If you have questions about whether your child should participate in the Keystone Exams this year, please contact your child’s School Counselor or Principal.

Please contact Samantha Ayres, WAACS School Counselor and School Assessment Coordinator at [sayres@westinghousearts.org](mailto:sayres@westinghousearts.org) or 412-646-1718 x 7005 if you have any questions or concerns.