



## Keystone Exams and Graduation Requirements

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has adopted Keystone Exams in Biology, Literature, and Algebra I at the high school. These exams have replaced grade 11 PSSA tests in Math, Reading, Writing, and Science. keystones are end-of-course assessments designed to evaluate student proficiency in academic content. Beginning with the **class of 2017, students must earn a proficient score on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone exams to graduate high school.** Students that do not earn a proficient score on a Keystone exam will have other opportunities throughout their high school career to demonstrate proficiency, after receiving remediation, through re-testing or completing a Pennsylvania Department of Education designed and evaluated Project Based Assessment.

### The Proposed High School Graduation Requirements for Students Graduating in (or after) 2017 are:

- Students will be required to demonstrate proficiency in each of the content areas listed below by passing a Keystone Exam.

Class of 2017 Required Exams (Current 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Students)	Class of 2018 Required Exams (Current 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Students)	Class of 2019 Required Exams (Current 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Students)	Class of 2020 Required Exams (Current 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Students)
Algebra I	Algebra I	Algebra I	Algebra I
Biology	Biology	Biology	Biology
Literature	Literature	Literature	Literature
		English Composition*	English Composition*
			Civics and Government*
*English Composition and Civics and Government Exams will be required only if funding is available for the Commonwealth to develop and validate relevant assessments. If funding is not available, Pennsylvania will require student proficiency in Algebra I, Biology, and Literature.			

- The highest level of performance that a student achieves on each Keystone Exam must be included on student transcripts. The transcript should also reflect whether the highest score was demonstrated through a project based assessment or a Keystone Exam.

An informational session on **Keystone Exams** is being held on **October 30, 2013 at 7:00pm in the Nazareth Area High School Auditorium.**

To learn more about Keystone Exams and Keystone Standards visit: <http://www.pdesas.org/module/assessment/Keystone.aspx>