



**Pittsburgh
Public Schools**



The Pathway to the Promise.™

Keystone Exam Implementation Plan for Spring 2011

**Education Committee Meeting
January 4, 2011**

Why are we doing this?

At the December 2 Education Committee meeting we communicated that we would develop a Keystone Exam implementation plan and share it with the Board.

What are we seeking to gain from this presentation?

1. An overview of the spring 2011 Keystone implementation plan for current 7th, 8th and 9th grade students in PPS
2. Latest information about Keystone Exams from PDE

Keystone Implementation Milestones

December 2010	Planning meeting with Principals
	Keystone Exam counts communicated to PDE
January 2011	Planning meeting with Principals
	<p>Develop communications plans with appropriate timelines for families, students and community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize key messages for each stakeholder group • Draft letters for families and establish appropriate timing of mailing • Work with school-based staff to identify most effective methods for sharing information with students • Work with Mark Conner to plan for education of parent leaders about Keystone Exams

Keystone Implementation Milestones

January 2011 (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make use of all standard District communications tools (for implementation in Spring 2011) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alert Now messages ▪ PPS Website (Keystone Exam page and banner on homepage) ▪ Pittsburgh Educator stories (Spring and Fall 2011) ▪ <i>Excellence for All</i> TV program ▪ School newsletters
February	Names of students who will take Keystones in May to PDE
	Update for Principals
March	PSSA test administration in grades 4-8 and 11
April	School Assessment Coordinators Meeting
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keystone Exam administration for Algebra 1, English Literature & Biology • Decision rules established for applying Keystone to semester and final grades • Plan for operationalizing decision rules in new grade book in Pinnacle system and making exam results accessible
October	May 2011 Keystone Exam results available from PDE

Which PPS students will take the Algebra 1 Keystone Exam in May 2011?*

- All 7th graders enrolled in Algebra 1*
- All 8th graders*
- All 9th graders enrolled in Algebra 1, Geometry AB/BC, Geometry and Algebra 2 except students in Bridge to Algebra*

** 7th, 8th and 9th grade students with IEPs who qualify for PASA and/or are educated in regional classrooms are excluded from Keystone Exams.*

Which PPS students will take the English Literature Keystone Exam in May 2011?*

- All 9th graders* except students in Wilson Reading and English 1 Reading Acceleration

** 9th grade students with IEPs who qualify for PASA and/or are educated in regional classrooms are excluded from Keystone Exams.*

Which PPS students will take the Biology Keystone Exam in May 2011?*

- All 9th graders*

** 9th grade students with IEPs who qualify for PASA and/or are educated in regional classrooms are excluded from Keystone Exams.*

High School Graduation Requirements

- ✓ Completion of courses and grades
- ✓ Completion of culminating project
- ✓ Proficiency in each state standard
- ✓ Proficiency in each main subject as determined by
 - Keystone Exam counting as 33% of course grade OR
 - Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) Exam

Graduation Requirements Phases

PHASE ONE: Students graduating in 2015 & 2016* must demonstrate proficiency in:

- English Literature
- English Composition
- Algebra 1
- Biology

*This year's 7th and 8th graders

PHASE TWO: Students graduating in 2017* and beyond must demonstrate proficiency in:

- Both English Literature and Composition
- Two of three Mathematics (Algebra 1, Algebra 2 or Geometry)
- One of two Sciences (Biology or Chemistry)
- One of three Social Studies (American History, Civics or World History)

* This year's 6th graders

Keystone as 33% of Course Grade*

Each Keystone Exam is graded on a 100-point scale

Performance Level	Points
Below Basic	0
Basic	50-69
Proficient	70-89
Advanced	90-100

** May 2011 Keystone Exams cannot count as 33% of course grades awarded in June 2011 because results for the first administration of each exam will not be available until the following October.*

Project-Based Assessment

A student who does not achieve proficiency on a Keystone Exam after 2 attempts is eligible to complete a project-based assessment.

Projects will be:

- Aligned with Keystone Exam modules
- Developed by the PDE and administered by school staff
- Scored by regional panels of educators

Guidance for IEP Teams

Students with Individual Education Programs should participate in the Keystone Exams with accommodations as necessary immediately following completion of the related course.

Students can retake the exam during any subsequent administration.

Guidance for IEP Teams

Students with IEPs enrolled in courses designed to replace Algebra 1, Biology or Literature shall have their participation in the Keystone Exams determined by the IEP Team.

Students with IEPs not enrolled in related courses assessed by the Keystone Exams would be required to participate in another assessment as determined by their IEP Team.

Guidance for IEP Teams

A student with a disability will have the same opportunity as the non-disabled student to “test out” of the course by taking a Keystone Exam and scoring “advanced” if the school district has made this allowance. The student may be awarded credit for the course without actually taking the course.

AYP: Transition from 11th Grade PSSA to Keystones

What will be used for AYP when there is no grade 11 PSSA?

PDE has petitioned the U.S. Department of Education to allow the Algebra 1, Literature and Biology Keystone Exams to replace the 11th grade PSSA in 2012-13.

How will Keystone Exams be used in AYP determinations?

The U.S. Department of Education will decide the following:

- Bank scores

Student's 8th or 9th grade scores not used for AYP until student is in 11th grade

- Use scores from 2013 administration

Students 8th or 9th grade scores used in the same year the student completes the Keystone

- Retest

Should student's retest score be included in AYP?

Can higher score be used for AYP?