



MARPLE NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

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To all MNHS families of students in the Class of 2022 and younger,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the latest news regarding Keystone exam make-ups from the spring of 2020. Governor Wolf signed Senate Bill 1216 that specifically addresses Keystone Exams in section 2.

Section 2 from Senate Bill 1216

SECTION 2. THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:

SECTION 121.1. SPECIAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO THE KEYSTONE EXAMS, GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND ALTERNATIVE COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT.--FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR AND ANY SUBSEQUENT SCHOOL YEAR IN WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS WAIVED THE TESTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965 (PUBLIC LAW 89-10, 20 U.S.C. § 6301 ET SEQ.), AS AMENDED BY THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (PUBLIC LAW 114-95, 129 STAT. 1802), ANY STUDENT WHO COMPLETED A COURSE IN AN ACADEMIC CONTENT AREA ASSOCIATED WITH A KEYSTONE EXAM SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE KEYSTONE EXAM RELATED TO THAT COURSE AND SHALL BE DEEMED PROFICIENT FOR PURPOSES OF SECTIONS 121 AND 2604-B(B)(2)(V) AND 22 PA. CODE § 4.24 (RELATING TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS), PROVIDED THAT THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATES SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF LOCALLY ESTABLISHED, GRADE-BASED REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACADEMIC CONTENT AREAS ASSOCIATED WITH EACH KEYSTONE EXAM.

What Does this Mean?

What this means for our students is that any student who was to take the Keystone exam in the spring of 2020 (last school year) for a Keystone specific subject of Algebra 1, Biology and 10th grade Literature will be deemed proficient as long as the student passed the course.

Why is This Important?

This is important since we began the year with new graduation requirements under Act 158, which offers students five pathways to graduation. The first two pathways being Keystone Exam specific. The signing of this bill changes the landscape for what our students are required to do in regards to Act 158 and the graduation requirements starting with the Class of 2022.

Options for our Students

Marple Newtown High School offered every student, who took a Keystone specific course last year, the opportunity to “opt in” to taking the Keystone exam for each course the student took last year. Those exams will be administered during the months of January through March. Since many students have chosen to “opt in” to taking the exam, prior to this bill being signed, I want to provide families with this new information as well as offer students the opportunity to withdraw their “opt in” request.

How to Remove your “Opt in” Request

If you had previously “opted in” to taking the make-up Keystone Exam for a Keystone specific course your student had taken last school year and would like to withdraw him/her from taking it, in light of this new bill, please email me at jbeltrante@mnsd.org.

For Students who are still Going to take the Keystone Exam

We will still be offering the testing for any student who chooses to take the exams. If you would like your student to take the exam and have already signed up, please email Mr. Tabar at dtabar@mnsd.org that you wish for your student to remain in the testing group for each exam they are signed up for.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during these times.

Tiger Pride!

John Beltrante