PROPEL SCHOOLS
Graduation Requirements Policy

Purpose

Propel Schools is committed to ensuring that all scholars graduate high school prepared for postsecondary success. Regular high school diplomas will be awarded to scholars who complete the graduation requirements outlined below. Scholars are required to meet both the Propel Graduation Requirements and the Act 158 Graduation Requirements outlined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in order to be awarded a regular high school diploma.

Graduation Requirements

Propel Graduation Requirements

Scholars are required to earn the credits by subject outlined in the table below.   This chart outlines the required credits to meet graduation requirements. Scholars have the option of pursuing Career Pathways, including Nursing. Scholars who elect a Nursing Career Pathway will also pursue up to 30 college credits. Should a scholar withdraw or be withdrawn from the Nursing Career Pathway, the scholar would need to meet the General Graduation Requirements. Scholars pursuing the Manufacturing Career Pathway, the Early College Program, or Dual Enrollment must complete the General Graduation Requirements.

	Nursing Pathway Class of 2023 and beyond	General Class of 2023 and beyond
English Language Arts	4	4
Mathematics	4	4
Science	4	4
Social Studies	3	3
World Language	2	2
The Arts	2	2
Crew	2	2
Fitness	1	1
Financial Literacy	1	1
Senior Seminar	1	1
Computer Science	1	1
Electives	0	2
Total	25	27

All credits earned or failed previously, either within Propel or outside of Propel, will be mapped to these graduation requirements by the College and Career Counselor. Should a scholar or family wish to request an additional review of courses to determine graduation requirements, the

scholar or family must next reach out to the Principal. Additional recourse includes the Senior Director of Academics.

Additional Graduation Requirements
- Successful completion of 12th grade Senior Expedition Presentation as evidenced by earning credit in Senior Seminar
- Successful completion of approved and documented 10 hours of Service Learning/Community Service.

The Arts Graduation Requirements
The following courses would satisfy "The Arts" graduation requirements
- Media and Graphic Design courses
- Visual Art courses
- Music, Choir and Instrumental Music courses
- Performance/Drama courses
- Creative Writing courses

Credit Recovery
If a scholar fails a course, the course credit will need to be recovered through either Propel's Credit Recovery Program or through a pre-approved 3rd party credit recovery program. The credit is expected to be recovered by August 15th of the summer following the completed school year. Credit recovery must be documented and provided to the principal no later than the final add/drop day each year.

Senior scholars who are deficient one credit are permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony. If a senior scholar is deficient more than one credit, they are not permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Act 158 Graduation Requirements
Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, the Act 158 statewide graduation requirement will apply, as will any other locally-established policies and requirements. Keystone Exams are the statewide assessment that Pennsylvania uses to comply with accountability requirements in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Each state is expected to achieve 95 percent participation on its statewide exams.

Scholars can meet the Act 158 statewide graduation requirement through the following pathways:
1. Keystone Proficiency Pathway: Achieving a minimum scaled score of 1500 (scoring proficient or advanced) on each Keystone Exam - Algebra I, Literature, and Biology. Non-numeric proficiencies count in this pathway.
2. Keystone Composite Pathway:
    - 3-Score Composite: Earning a composite score of 4452 or greater on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams (while achieving at least a 1500 scaled score on at least one of the three exams and no less than a basic

score on the remaining two).

- 2-Score Composite: Earning a non-numeric Proficient in a Keystone Exam pursuant to Act 136 of 2020, successfully completing locally established, grade-based requirements for academic content associated with each Keystone Exam in which the student does not have a numeric or non-numeric score of Proficient/Advanced; and a composite score of 2939 or greater for two of the three Keystone Exams (calculated using the highest numerical scores attained by the student, neither of which may be Below Basic and at least one of which must be Proficient or better) for the other two assessments lacking a non-numeric Proficient.

3. CTE Pathway: 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 scholar did not achieve proficiency and attainment of an industry-based competency certification related to the CTE Concentrator's program of study or demonstration of 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. Alternate Assessment Pathway: Successful completion of locally established grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam on which the scholar did not achieve proficiency and one of the following:
   - Attainment of an established score on an approved alternate assessment (SAT, PSAT, ACT, ASVAB);
   - Gold Level on the ACT WorkKeys Assessment;
   - Attainment of an established score on an Advanced Placement Program or an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program exam in an academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam on which the scholar did not achieve at least a proficient score;
   - Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment course in an academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam in which the scholar did not achieve at least a proficient score;
   - Successful completion of a pre-apprenticeship program; or
   - Acceptance in an accredited 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework.

5. Evidence Based Pathway: Successful completion of locally established grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam on which the scholar did not achieve proficiency and demonstration of three pieces of evidence consistent with the scholar's goals and career plans, including
   - One of the following:
     - Attainment of an established score on the ACT WorkKeys assessment, a SAT subject test, an Advanced Placement Program Exam, or an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program Exam;
     - Acceptance to an accredited nonprofit institution of higher education other than a 4-year institution and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework;

- Attainment of an industry-recognized credential; or
- Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment or postsecondary course; and
- Two additional pieces of evidence, including one or more of the options listed above, or: satisfactory completion of a service learning project; 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; or satisfactory compliance with the NCAA's core courses for college-bound scholar athletes with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0.

The PDE SAS Act 158: Pathways to Graduation Toolkit is used as the guiding documentation to identify appropriate pathways for scholars.

Propel Graduate Profile Satisfying Alternative Assessment Pathway
The following locally-established graduate profile will be used together with a letter of general admittance into an accredited 4-year non-profit institution of higher education to satisfy the "Acceptance in an accredited 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework" piece of evidence for the Alternate Assessment Pathway:

- Regular GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Attendance rate of 85% in grades 10 and 11
- Successful completion of Geometry as evidenced by earning credit in the course
- Successful completion of English 11, AP English Language and Composition, or AP English Literature and Composition as evidenced by earning credit in the course

Propel Graduate Profile Satisfying Evidence Based Pathway
The following locally-established graduate profile will be used together with a letter of general admittance into an accredited nonprofit institution of higher education other than a 4-year institution of higher education to satisfy the "Acceptance to an accredited nonprofit institution of higher education other than a 4-year institution and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework" piece of evidence for the Evidence Based Pathway:

- Regular GPA of 2.6 or higher
- Attendance rate of 80% in grades 10 and 11
- Successful completion of Geometry as evidenced by earning credit in the course
- Successful completion of English 11, AP English Language and Composition, or AP English Literature and Composition as evidenced by earning credit in the course

Scholars with Disabilities
Any scholar with a disability who satisfactorily completes a special education program developed by an individualized education program team under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and 22 Pa. Code Ch. 14 (relating to special education services and programs) that does not otherwise meet the requirements of Act 158 or Act 6 shall be granted and issued a regular high school diploma.

In order for a scholar to graduate on IEP goals, the following steps must be taken:
1. The IEP team must agree that a change in both Propel Graduation Requirements and Act 158 Graduation Requirements is warranted.
2. The Director of Pupil Services then reviews the proposed change in graduation requirements in consultation with the Senior Director of Data, Reporting, and Compliance and the Senior Director of Academics. The Director of Pupil Services makes a final decision and shares the result with the IEP team and the College and Career Counselor. The approval must be communicated via email with the parties listed above included, in addition to the school principal. The College and Career Counselor must retain a copy of this communication in the scholar's records as well as being clearly documented in the scholar's IEP.
3. Any scholar must be made eligible for IEP goal graduation status by the end of 10th grade or, if enrolled after 10th grade, within 6 months of enrollment.

Other Graduation Considerations and Waivers to Act 158

In rare circumstances, a scholar's graduation requirements may shift based on considerable review by the College and Career Counselor, Principal, Senior Director of Data, Reporting, and Compliance, and the Senior Director of Academics. Reasons for special consideration may include, but not be limited to, medical circumstances, interrupted formal education, and other factors outside the scholar's control which limit their ability to reasonably attain Propel's Graduation Requirements or Act 158 Graduation Requirements.

Such a proposal for any alteration must be submitted by the principal to the Senior Director of Data, Reporting, and Compliance and the Senior Director of Academics who then makes a recommendation to the Superintendent/CEO to approve or disapprove of the request.

If approved, the College and Career Counselor must retain a copy of the scholar-specific graduation requirements in the scholar's records.

Scholars granted Act 158 Graduation Requirements waivers are still required to successfully complete locally established, grade based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam. Waivers granted by the Superintendent/CEO will not exceed more than five percent of the scholars in a graduating class.

Approved By	Date
Dr. Tina Chekan	8/22/2022
Board of Trustees	8/22/2022