

Upper Adams School District

Proposed Resolution In Response To The Cancellation Of Keystone Exams In The Spring Of 2020 In Response To The COVID-19 Pandemic

WHEREAS:

On March 19, 2020, Pennsylvania's then-Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera cancelled the administration of the Keystone Exams for the spring testing window of the 2019–2020 school year due to the COVID-19 response efforts. Such cancellation rendered the Upper Adams School District unable to complete the testing mandated by the Commonwealth and Federal Governments. Additionally, District students were unjustly restricted from the opportunity to fulfill the graduations requirements specific to the Assessments outlined in Upper Adams School District School Board Policy 217 (Graduation Requirements).

Authority

The Board shall adopt the graduation requirements students must achieve in accordance with state regulations, which shall include course completion and grades, completion of a culminating project, and results of local and state assessments.

The Keystone Exams (Algebra, Biology, Literature) are designed as “end of course” assessments. Therefore, students who passed a Keystone Exam “trigger course” during the Spring Semester of the 2019–2020 school year will not be required to make up the associated exam. For students choosing to make up a Keystone Exam for an individual purpose, opportunities will be available during established testing windows prior to the individual's senior year. Any student choosing to take a make-up exam should communicate this decision with their designated school counselor.

AND NOW, THEREFORE, the Upper Adams School District Board of School Directors, as stated above, hereby provides the students for the District cohort of 2019–2020 test-takers, who were scheduled to take one or more Keystone Exams in the spring of 2020, as a component of its graduation requirement for students in the graduating classes of 2022 and 2023, an additional pathway to meeting the graduation requirement, by accepting a “passing” score in one or more Keystone Exam “trigger courses” during the spring semester of the 2019–2020 school year. Under the Federal Accountability Waiver secured by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in March, 2020, the Upper Adams School District will not require the administration of Keystone Exams for any student in the 2021 graduating class. Academic proficiency/current local graduation requirements, as measured by local assessments and outlined in Upper Adams School District Board Policy 217, will be the determining measure for the current senior class of 2021. No student will be denied participation in a make-up Keystone Exam, if they choose, as their graduation requirement pathway option. The Upper Adams School District would accommodate that request for students to sit for the Keystone Exams and to have students demonstrate proficiency or a generated composite score that would allow them to graduate under the requirements set forth under the Act 158 Legislation.

Nothing in this resolution is intended to conflict with any additional forthcoming guidance on the above-mentioned matters.

SO RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS this 17 day of November, 2020.