



FCASD and State Graduation Requirements

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Current FCASD Requirements

All Graduation requirements are established by the Board of Education for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Board of School Directors for the Fox Chapel Area School District.

Satisfactory completion of the following requirements are need for graduation:

1. A minimum of twenty-seven (27) credits through which students demonstrate attainment of district and state standards.
2. A culminating project.
3. A twelve-hour service learning experience.
4. PA Act 158 Compliance through one of the following:
 1. Keystone Proficiency
 2. Keystone Composite
 3. Career and Technical Education Concentrator
 4. Alternative Assessment
 5. Evidence-Based

Current FCASD Requirements (cont...)

Students will be required to accumulate a minimum of twenty-seven (27) credits in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. These credits must include the following and may be earned as part of an integrated curriculum.

<u>Credits</u>	<u>Subjects</u>
.5	Career & College Essentials
4	English
4	Social Studies
3	Science
3	Math
.5	Health-Safety Education
1.5	Physical Education
.5	Health-Wellness
9	Additional Electives including 2 credits in Art/Humanities
1	Proficiency Requirement (Keystone Exams or assigned project)
27 Total Credits (minimum)	

Included in the courses described above are the district and state standards that students must attain in order to graduate from high school. These standards were approved by the Board

History of Graduation Requirements in PA and FCASD

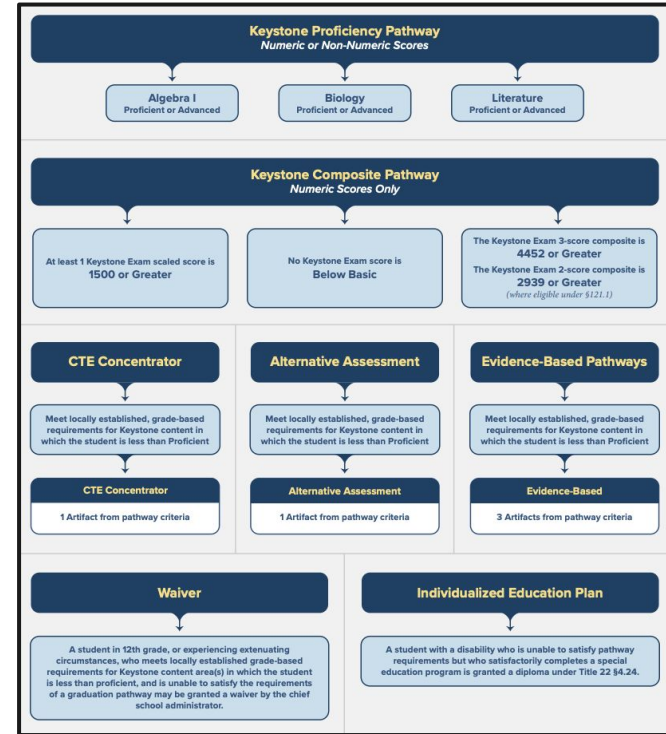
- The district proactively responded to an increasing focus on proficiency at the state level dating back over 15 years. This is when proficiency became a graduation requirement at FCASD.
- Proficiency became a requirement at the state level as measured by the PSSAs and then Keystone Exams (2012-2013).
- Local school districts were able to develop local assessments (projects) for students to work through in the event proficiency was not able to be obtained through the state assessments.
- Eventually the state paused the requirement for proficiency on the state assessments; however, we maintained our local requirement for proficiency.
- Act 158 was passed in 2018 and was put into effect for the graduating class of 2023.
- The district currently has Act 158 compliance as part of our graduation requirements.



PA Act 158 Graduation Requirements

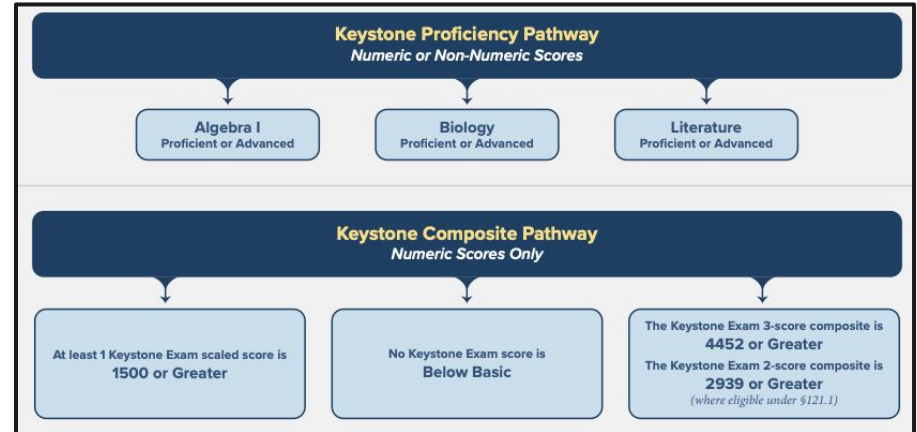
What is Act 158?

Act 158 of 2018 (Act 158) provides alternatives to Pennsylvania's statewide requirement of attaining proficiency on the three end-of-course Keystone Exams (Algebra I, Literature, and Biology) in order for a student to achieve statewide graduation requirements.



Graduation Pathway: Keystones

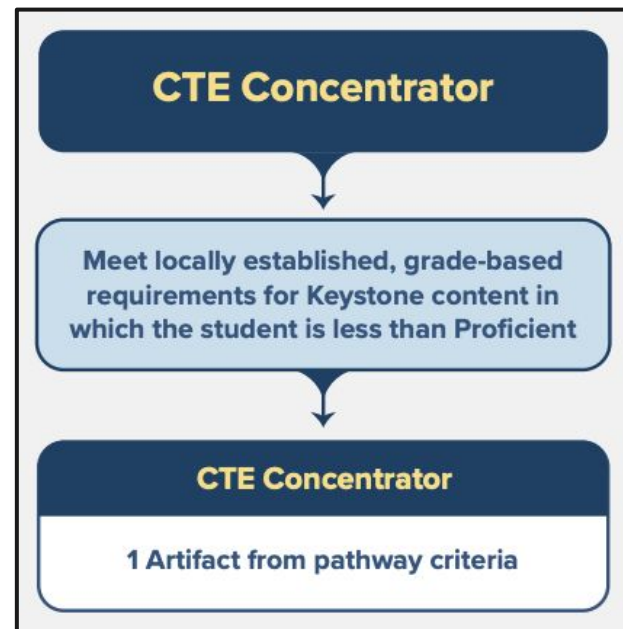
- **Keystone Proficiency:** Students achieving a minimum scaled score of 1500 or better (or who qualify for non-numeric scores of Proficient) in each of the three Keystone Exams meet the Keystone Proficiency statewide requirements for high school graduation.
- **Keystone Composite Score:** To qualify for the Keystone Composite Pathway, a student must have taken all three Keystone Exams and must have at least one Keystone Exam scaled (numeric) score of Proficient or Advanced, no Keystone Exam scaled (numeric) score of Below Basic, and the composite of the three scaled (numeric) scores must be 4452 or greater. A student who has a non-numeric proficiency score on one Keystone Exam can qualify with a two-score composite of 2939.



Graduation Pathway: Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrator

Pass the course in which a student achieves less than Proficient, the student must also meet one of the following:

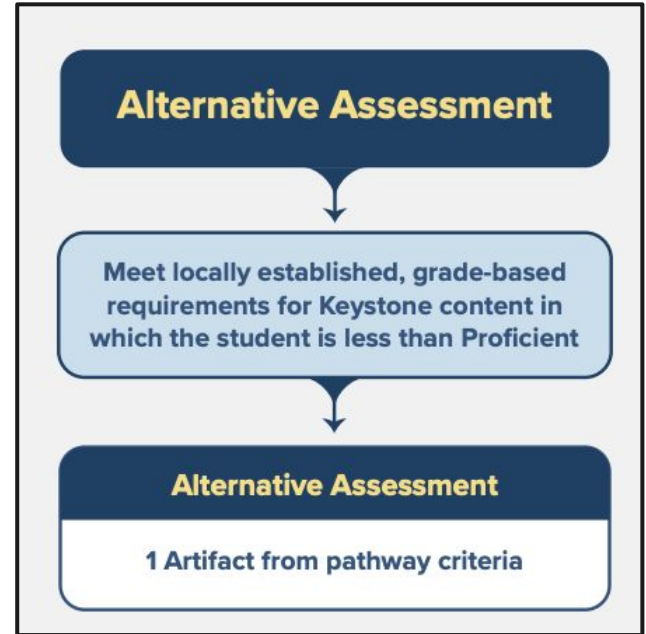
- Attainment of an Industry-Based Competency Certification related to the CTE concentrator program of study. OR
- Demonstration of high likelihood of success on approved industry-based competency assessment and as determined by a chief school administrator in consultation with an area vocational-technical school director. OR
- Demonstration of readiness for continued meaningful engagement in a CTE Concentrator Program of Study



Graduation Pathway: Alternative Assessment

Meet locally established, grade-based requirements for Keystone content in which the student is less than proficient.

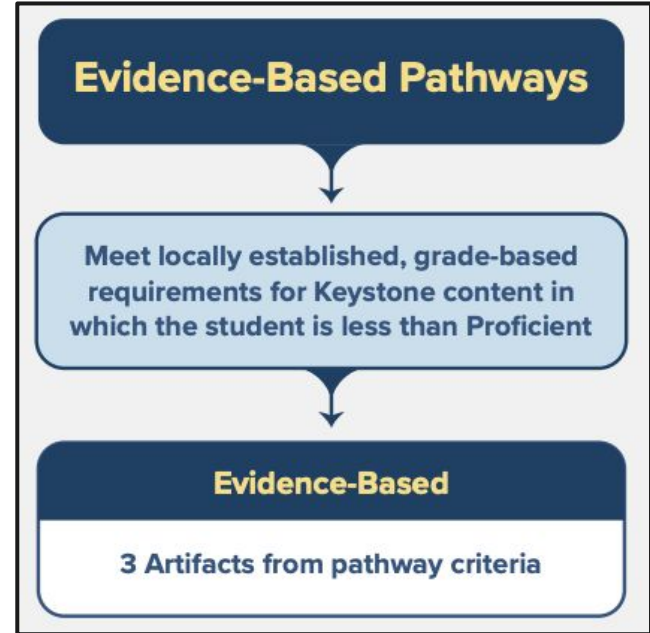
- The student must meet or exceed any one of the established scores for the following approved alternative assessments to meet state high school graduation requirements regardless of the number of Keystone Exams for which the student does not have a numeric or non-numeric score of Proficient or Advanced.
 - ACT (21), ACT WorkKeys, ASVAB (31), PSAT (970), SAT (1010), AP Exam (3), IB Exam
 - Concurrent Enrollment (a credit-bearing, non-remedial college-level course)
 - We now have 17 CHS courses and growing)
 - Completion of an LEA pre-apprenticeship program (PA Labor and Industry or US Dept of Labor Registered Program)
 - Acceptance into a 4 year college level course program



Graduation Pathway: Evidence Based

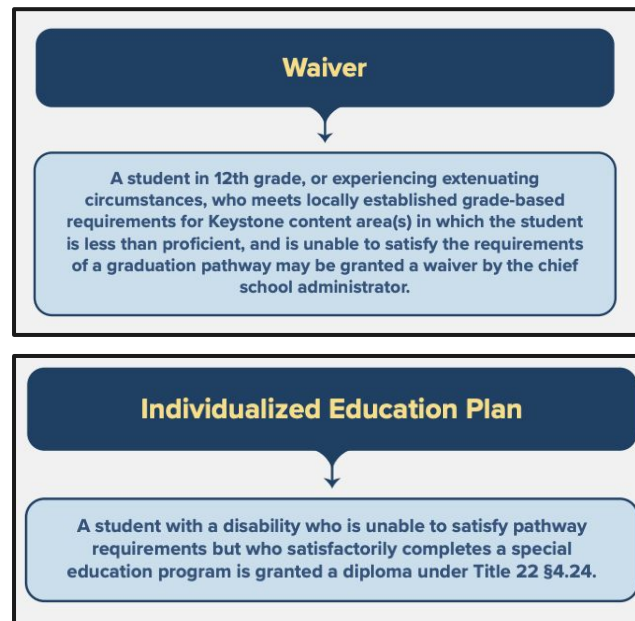
Meet locally established, grade-based requirements for Keystone content in which the student is less than Proficient. Students must have a total of 3 pieces of evidence from sections one and two based on the guidelines below:

- At least one of the pieces of evidence must be from Section One: (ACT, ACT WorkKeys, SAT, AP Exam, IB Exam, Concurrent Enrollment, Attainment of one industry-recognized credentials)
- No more than two pieces of evidence from Section Two:
 - Attainment of Proficient or Advanced on more than one Keystone Exam (each in a different content area)
 - Successful completion of more than one approved service-learning project
 - Successful completion of more than one internship, externship, or cooperative education program
 - Guarantee of full time employment
 - Compliance with NCAA Division II Core Courses



Other Graduation Pathways Under Act 158

- **Waiver:** To accommodate a student in Grade 12 or a student who experiences extenuating circumstances (e.g., serious illness, death in the student's immediate family, family emergency, frequent school transfers, transfer from out-of-state in grade 12), a chief school administrator may waive the requirements for proficiency in Keystone Exams or other pathway-specific criteria.
- **Individualized Education Program:** Any student 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.



Keystone Results Tracking (Class of 2024)

	17-18 (Grade 6)	18-19 (Grade 7)	19-20 (Grade 8)	20-21 (Grade 9)	21-22 (Grade 10)	22-23 (Grade 11)
Total # of Students Assessed (Algebra)	2	53	170 <small>*Includes Non-Numeric Proficiency</small>	249	257	271
Total Proficient or Advanced (Algebra)	2 (100%)	53 (100%)	170 (100%)	194 (77.9%)	203 (78.99%)	224 (82.66%)
Total # of Students Assessed (Biology)	-	-	1	181	261	268
Total Proficient or Advanced (Biology)	-	-	1 (100%)	174 (96.13%)	209 (80.08%)	224 (83.58%)
Total # of Students Assessed (Literature)	-	-	1	1	266	277
Total Proficient or Advanced (Literature)	-	-	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	228 (85.71%)	246 (88.81%)

11th Grade Cohort Keystone Proficiency Historical (As Reported on PA Future Ready Index)

School Year	17-18 (Class of 2019)	18-19 (Class of 2020)	19-20 (Class of 2021)	20-21 (Class of 2022)	21-22 (Class of 2023)
Percent Proficient or Advanced (Algebra)	89.2%	89.3%	Not Reported	86.7%	93.4%
Percent Proficient or Advanced (Biology)	88.8%	89.9%	Not Reported	97.5%	49.5% <i>(Does not include Non-Numeric Proficiencies)</i>
Percent Proficient or Advanced (Literature)	91.7%	90.1%	Not Reported	Insufficient Sample	88.6%



Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs

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- **May the local graduation requirements exceed the state's requirements for graduation as listed under Act 158?**
 - As per the PDE SAS portal: “Minimally, statewide graduation requirements must be met; however, LEAs may establish additional local requirements as part of a Board-approved graduation policy. For example, an LEA may require:
 - Options beyond those delineated in Pa. Public School Code §121 (which was amended by Pa. Act 158 of 2018).
 - More rigorous options (such as Proficient or better on all three Keystone Exams).”

FAQs

- **Why did the district decide to have a proficiency requirement for graduation exceeding the Act 158 requirements?**
 - The district reviewed Act 158 requirements and determined it would maintain the proficiency requirement it has had as a graduation requirement for over 15 years. Removing this requirement would lower the expectations for graduation that has been in place even before the state proposed a proficiency requirement.
 - Years ago, the district recognized that it had some students who would benefit from additional reteaching experiences, learning opportunities, and more focused ways to demonstrate conceptual understandings of the standards.
 - Even before Act 158, FCAHS has provided alternate pathways to show proficiency through creative ways to support students (runway courses, remediation courses, rotation of faculty, summer school, instructional support, etc.). The high school prides itself on a very personal approach to supporting students and families to achieve graduation goals and each student's academic plan.

FAQs

- **Why did the district decide to have a proficiency requirement for graduation exceeding the Act 158 requirements?** *continued...*
 - The past and current FCASD graduation requirements are more appropriate for our students given the level of academic expectations and achievement our students have obtained for many years.
 - Proficiency, as measured by the state assessments, helps ensure students have met the state academic standards in mathematics, literature, and science, which is our mandate as a public school system.

FAQs

- **How many students are in need of an alternative pathway each year?**
 - The percentage range of students who are in need of the Senior Proficiency Project is about 10%-14% of the class depending on the subject.
 - Some students meet graduation requirements through meeting IEP goals and very few receive a waiver from the superintendent for extreme extenuating circumstances.



Thank You!