

Act 158 Pennsylvania Graduation Pathways

Overview: Beginning with the Class of 2023, students have the opportunity to follow one of five different pathways to meet the graduation requirements set forth by the state of Pennsylvania. The five options are outlined below. [Pennsylvania Department of Education: Graduation Requirements](#)

Keystone Proficiency Pathway

- Scoring proficient or advanced on each Keystone Exam - Algebra I, Literature, and Biology (1500 or above).

Keystone Composite Score Pathway

- Earning a composite score of 4452 on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams (while achieving at least a proficient score on at least one of the three exams and no less than a basic score on the remaining two).

Keystone Exam	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Algebra	1200-1438	1439-1499	1500-1545	1546-1800
Biology	1200-1459	1460-1499	1500-1548	1549-1800
Literature	1200-1443	1444-1499	1500-1583	1584-1800

- Note: Under Act 55 of 2022, a student may also graduate via this pathway if they:
 - Earned a non-numeric Proficient in a Keystone Exam pursuant to [Act 136 of 2020](#);
 - Successfully completed 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
 - Achieved a Keystone 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).

Alternative Assessment Pathway

1. Successful completion of grade-based requirements for academic content associated with non-proficient Keystone, **AND**
2. **One** of the following:
 - AP (3) or IB (4) Exam related to non-proficient Keystone
 - SAT (1010), PSAT (970), ACT (21), ASVAB (31)
 - Gold Level on ACT WorkKeys Assessment
 - *Note: CASD is not an ACT WorkKeys approved test site*
 - Successful completion of a pre-apprenticeship program (registered with PA Apprenticeship and Training Council)
 - Acceptance into four-year accredited non-profit institution and ability to enroll in college-level work
 - Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment course in an academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam in which the student did not achieve at least proficiency

Evidence-Based Pathway

1. Successful completion of grade-based requirements for academic content associated with non-proficient Keystone, **AND**
2. **Three** pieces of evidence related to students' goals and career plans following tier specifications below:
 - **Tier One (at least one)**
 - ACT WorkKeys Assessment (Silver), SAT (630), AP Exam (3), IB Exam (3)
 - *Note: CASD is not an ACT WorkKeys approved test site*
 - Acceptance to an accredited non-profit institution of higher education other than a four-year institution and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework
 - Attainment of industry-recognized credential
 - Complete with a passing grade a Dual-Enrollment course or post-secondary course
 - **Tier Two (two from this list or more from above)**
 - Completion of Service Learning Project
 - Proficiency on a Keystone Exam (1500)
 - Letter guaranteeing full-time employment
 - Certificate of completion of Internship or Co-Op Program (*Internship must follow State regulations*)
 - Compliance with NCAA core courses for college student athlete with a minimum 2.0 GPA

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 student 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.
- See for more information: [Act 6 of 2017](#)