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August 30, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians:

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. This letter is designed to provide guidance as a result of the enactments of Act 158 and Act 6 of 2017 (Act 6), which established alternative pathways to meeting statewide graduation requirements for students who are Career and Technical Education (CTE) concentrators.

Effective with the Pittsburgh Public Schools graduating class of 2023, students have the option to demonstrate postsecondary preparedness through one of four additional pathways that more fully illustrate college, career, and community readiness.

Keystone Exams will continue as the statewide assessment Pennsylvania uses to comply with accountability requirements set forth in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Although students will no longer be required to achieve proficiency on the Keystone Exams in order to meet statewide graduation requirements, students must take the Keystone Exams for purposes of federal accountability. Failure to do so will affect a Local Education Agency (LEA) and school's participation rate.

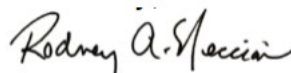
For students graduating in 2023 and beyond, five pathways exist for meeting state high school graduation requirements:

- Keystone Proficiency
- Keystone Composite
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrator
- Alternative Assessment
- Evidence-Based

More information regarding Act 158 can be found at education.pa.gov.

Pittsburgh Public Schools administration, school counselors, transition counselors, teachers, and other staff will be working closely with each student to review and help the student decide which pathway is best for each student to meet this statewide high school graduation requirement.

Thank you,



Dr. Rodney Necciai
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