



# McDowell High School Graduation Pathways



## PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION

Act 158 of 2018 prescribed multiple pathways for students to meet Pennsylvania’s assessment requirement for graduation. The state released the criteria for alternate assessments in spring 2020. These requirements affect the **Class of 2023** and beyond. You must meet the criteria of **one** of the following pathways to achieve a diploma.

### Pathway 1: Keystone Proficiency

Reach “Proficient” or “Advanced” on each Keystone Exam

- Algebra 1
- Literature
- Biology

### Pathway 2: Keystone Composite

Students must earn “Proficient” or “Advanced” on at least **one** Keystone Exam & earn at least a “Basic” score on the other **two** Keystone Exams & have a composite score of: **4452**

Keystone Exam Cut Score				
Content Area	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Algebra 1	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

### Pathway 3: Alternate Assessment

Students will meet local requirements for academic content covered by the Keystone Exams for all subjects where they did not earn proficiency on the Keystone exam (Algebra, Biology, Literature).

#### And ONE of the following

Attain an established score on an approved alternate assessment **or** complete one of the last three bulleted items. Approved alternate assessments are:

- **Advanced Placement Exam** —3 or higher [Refer to table](#)
- **PSAT**—970
- **SAT**—1010
- **ACT**—21
- **ACT Workkeys**—Gold Level
- **ASVAB**—31

Algebra Equivalent	
AP Calculus AB	AP Physics 1 - Algebra Based
AP Calculus BC	AP Physics 2 - Algebra Based
AP Computer Science A	AP Chemistry
AP Statistics	
Literature Equivalent	
AP English Language & Composition	AP English Literature & Composition
Biology Equivalent	
AP Biology	AP Physics 1 - Algebra Based
AP Chemistry	AP Physics 2 - Algebra Based

- **Successfully complete a dual enrollment course** in an academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam in which the student did not achieve at least proficiency
- **Successfully complete a pre-apprenticeship program.** (This must be related to career choice, registered and approved)
- **Be accepted in an accredited 4-year, nonprofit institution of higher education** and evidence of the ability to enroll in college level coursework.

## Pathway 4: Evidence-Based (three pieces of evidence required)

Students will meet local requirements for academic content covered by the Keystone Exams for all subjects where they did not meet proficiency on the Keystone exam (Algebra, Biology, Literature).

**At least ONE of the following (or more)**

<p><b><u>Attainment of an established score on an alternate assessment:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAT Subject Test: 630</li> <li>AP: 3-5 related to student career choice</li> <li>ACT Workkeys-Silver Level</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Acceptance to an other than 4-year accredited nonprofit institution of higher education</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acceptance Letter</li> <li>Placement Tests</li> <li>College Registration</li> <li>Local Profile of HS Graduate</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Attainment of an industry-recognized credential</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentation that verifies attainment as defined by the Office of Elem/Sec Education</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Successful completion of dual enrollment or post secondary course</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Credit-bearing</li> <li>Aligned to keystones</li> </ul>
OR	OR	OR	

**AND up to TWO of the following**

<p><b><u>Service Learning Project Completion</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must include project learning goals, project activities, and the projects contribution to the community, as designed by McDowell</li> <li>Supervised and assessed by an adult; completion is verified in writing by adult supervisor</li> <li>Sufficient duration and intensity to address identified community needs and meet specified project learning goals</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>” Proficient” or “Advanced” on a Keystone Exam</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scaled score of 1500 or higher on one Keystone Exam</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Letter Guaranteeing Full Time Employment or Military Enlistment</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 hours per week</li> <li>130 hours per month</li> <li>Military Enlistment Verification</li> </ul>
AND /OR	AND /OR	

<p><b><u>Internship or Cooperative Education Program</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industry-based learning Indicator Guidance: Work-based learning experiences McDowell Internship Program or McDowell Manufacturing Internship</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Compliance with the National College Athletic Association’s (NCAA) core courses for college bound student athletes (Division II)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum GPA requirements (2.0) in approved NCAA core courses</li> </ul>
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## Pathway 5: Career & Technical Education

<p>Students will meet local requirements for academic content covered by the Keystone Exams for all subjects where they did not earn proficiency on the Keystone Exam</p>	<p>Either attain an industry-based competency certification related to the career and technical education (CTE) concentrator’s program of study.</p>	<p>Demonstrate 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.</p>
AND	OR	

**For additional information contact your School Counselor or go to:**

<https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/GraduationRequirements/Act158/Pages/Requirements.aspx>