

Keystone Exams 2021

Who should take the Keystone? Students who took Algebra I, English 10, and Biology last school year will have the opportunity to take the Keystone Exam during the spring testing window in May 2021. Any student enrolled in Algebra I, English 10, and Biology this school year will take the respective Keystone exam in May 2021. Any member of the Class of 2022 (junior class) or lower who previously took a Keystone exam and was non-proficient will retake the exam in May 2021.

Why? Pennsylvania Department of Education set forth [statewide graduation requirements](#) that take effect with the graduating class of 2022.

Students can meet the statewide graduation requirement by doing one of the following:

- **Keystone Proficiency Pathway:** Scoring proficient or advanced on each Keystone Exam- Algebra I, Literature, and Biology by the end of their junior year.
- **Keystone Composite Pathway:** Earning a satisfactory composite score (4452) on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams combined by the end of their junior year. Students who meet the composite score pathway must score proficient (1500) on one of the three exams and no less than basic on the other two.
- **Alternate Assessment Pathway:** Earning a passing grade on the course associated with each Keystone Exam (Algebra I, English 10, and Biology), and satisfactorily complete one of the following alternative assessments (SAT, PSAT, ACT, ASVAB, Gold Level ACT WorkKeys), advanced coursework (AP, IB, concurrent enrollment course), pre-apprenticeship, or acceptance in a 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education for college-level work.
- **Career and Technical Education Pathway:** Earning a passing grade on the courses associated with each Keystone Exam (Algebra I, English 10, and Biology), and pass the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) or the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) assessment in an approved Career and Technical Education concentration.
- **Evidence- Based Pathway:** Earn a passing grade on the courses associated with each Keystone Exam (Algebra I, English 10, and Biology), and demonstrate readiness for postsecondary engagement through three pieces of evidence from the state's career portfolio aligned to student goals and career plan.