



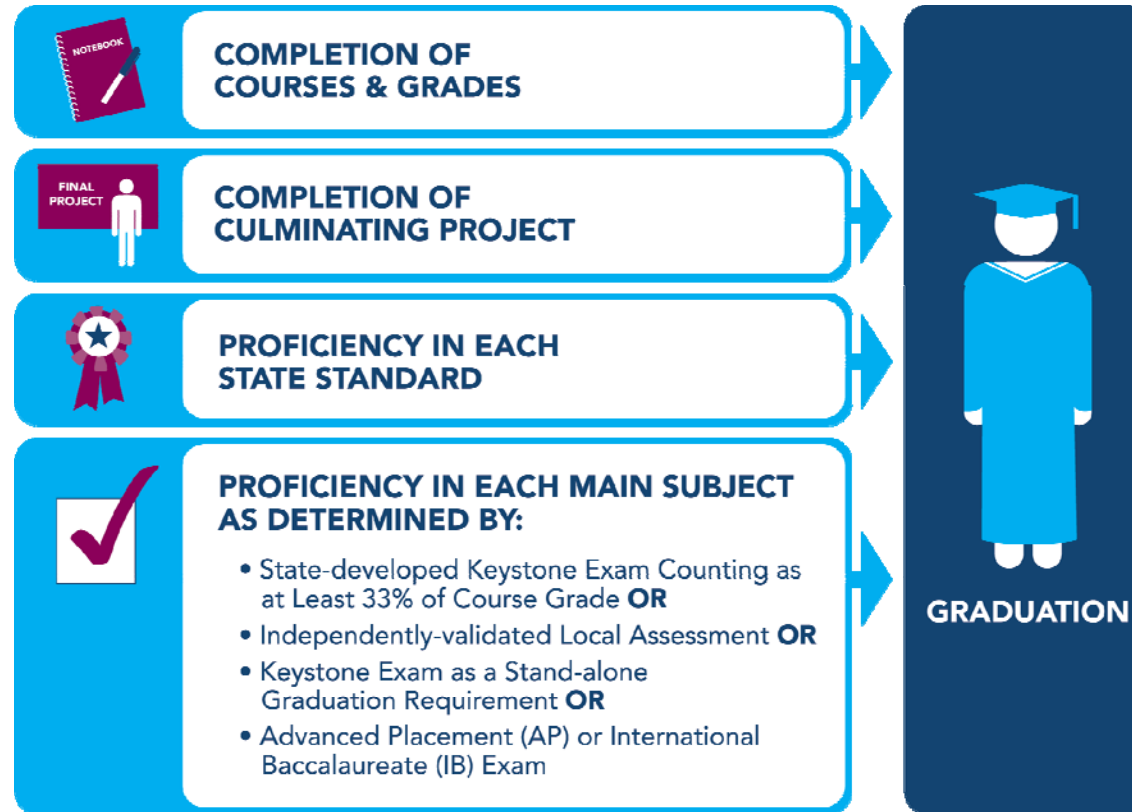
PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS:

Pennsylvania's New High School
Graduation Requirements

Patricia A. Wargo
April, 2011

Graduation Requirements

School district graduation policies must *at least* include:



Graduation Policy Phases

PHASE ONE: Students graduating in 2015 and 2016 must demonstrate proficiency in:

- English Composition
- Literature
- Algebra I
- Biology

PHASE TWO: Students graduating in 2017 and beyond must demonstrate proficiency in:

- Both English Composition and Literature
- Two of three Mathematics (Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry)
- One of two Sciences (Biology or Chemistry)
- One of three Social Studies (American History, Civics and Government or World History)



Keystone Exams

A district may choose to administer a state-developed Keystone Exam in core subjects that would serve as the final exam and count for at least 33% of the course grade.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2015, Keystone Exams are:

- Administered at the end of the course
- Counted for at least 1/3 of the overall course grade
- Available for students to retake either in their entirety or just a portion (module) 3 times during the year: winter, spring, and summer

Alignment to Standards

- Keystone Exams align with Pennsylvania's Standards Aligned System (SAS) and the Common Core State Standards
- The Keystone Exams are simply a new assessment tool for Pennsylvania school districts
- Test questions for the Keystone Exams in English and Math will be guided by Eligible Content on the Standards Aligned System website (www.pdesas.org)



What's Happening When: Fall 2010

Field Testing:

- Field testing of Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams
- The exams will be made available to mostly high school students and some middle school students in participating school districts

Course	Field Test
Algebra I, Biology, Literature	Fall 2010



What's Happening When: Spring 2011

Field Testing:

- Field testing of Algebra II, Geometry, and English Composition Keystone Exams

Course	Field Test
Algebra II, Geometry, English Composition	Spring 2011

Operational Administration:

- Operational administration of Algebra I, Biology, and Literature begins

Course	Operational
Algebra I, Biology, Literature	Spring 2011



What's Happening When: Spring 2011

Operational and Field Test Exam Schedule

SPRING 2011 Keystone Exam Testing Schedule (Operational and Field Test)										
KEYSTONE EXAMS	Traditional 10-month Schedule					Block Schedule				
	ONLINE Test Dates	Paper/ Pencil Test Dates	Paper/ Pencil Materials Return Date	Make-Up Test Dates	Make-Up Materials Return Date	ONLINE Test Dates	Paper/ Pencil Test Dates	Paper/ Pencil Materials Return Date	Make-Up Test Dates	Make-Up Materials Return Date
Literature (operational)	May 2-6, 2011	May 2-3, 2011	May 4, 2011	May 6 & 9, 2011	May 10, 2011	May 9-13, 2011	May 9-10, 2011	May 11, 2011	May 13 & 16, 2011	May 17, 2011
Biology (operational)	May 2-6, 2011	May 2-3, 2011	May 4, 2011	May 6 & 9, 2011	May 10, 2011	May 9-13, 2011	May 9-10, 2011	May 11, 2011	May 13 & 16, 2011	May 17, 2011
Algebra I (operational)	May 3-9, 2011	May 3-4, 2011	May 5, 2011	May 6 & 9, 2011	May 10, 2011	May 10-16, 2011	May 10-11, 2011	May 12, 2011	May 13 & 16, 2011	May 17, 2011
English Composition (Field Test)	May 3-9, 2011	May 3-4, 2011	May 5, 2011	May 6 & 9, 2011	May 10, 2011	May 10-16, 2011	May 10-11, 2011	May 12, 2011	May 13 & 16, 2011	May 17, 2011
Algebra II (Field Test)	May 4-10, 2011	May 4-5, 2011	May 6, 2011	May 6 & 9, 2011	May 10, 2011	May 11-17, 2011	May 11-12, 2011	May 13, 2011	May 13 & 16, 2011	May 17, 2011
Geometry (Field Test)	May 4-10, 2011	May 4-5, 2011	May 6, 2011	May 6 & 9, 2011	May 10, 2011	May 11-17, 2011	May 11-12, 2011	May 13, 2011	May 13 & 16, 2011	May 17, 2011



What's Happening When: Five-Year Implementation Plan

Course	Field Test	Available For All Schools
Algebra I, Biology, Literature	Fall 2010	Spring 2011
Algebra II, Geometry, English Composition	Spring 2011	Winter 2011-2012
U.S. History	Fall 2012	Spring 2013
Chemistry, Civics and Government, World History	Spring 2015	TBD



Test Format

Keystone Exam Questions:

- Includes multiple-choice questions and constructed-response, or open-ended questions.
- Algebra I and Biology: 60%-75% of the total score from multiple-choice questions and; 25%-40% of the total score from constructed-response questions
- English Composition: 20% of the total score will come from multiple-choice, and 80% from constructed-response questions

Keystone Exam Scoring:

- Each correct multiple-choice question is worth one point
- Partial credit could be given on constructed-response questions, depending on the rubric

Keystone Exam Format:

- Online and paper/pencil formats available for all Keystone Exams
- Each district will individually determine if online, paper/pencil or both formats will be used
- Each exam will take approximately 2 to 2.5 hours to complete



100-Point Scale

Each Keystone Exam is graded on a 100-point scale. The chart below shows the points associated with each performance level.

Performance Level	Points
Below Basic	0
Basic	50-69
Proficient	70-89
Advanced	90-100



Retesting

Students can take the Keystone Exam up to 3 times per school year.

- Students who don't score 'proficient' can retake the entire test or just the module they didn't pass
- Retesting scoring will be based on the highest module scores, so it is in the best interest of the student to retake the entire Keystone Exam
- If a student has not achieved proficiency after 2 attempts, he/she can complete a project-based alternative to demonstrate his/her knowledge in the subject matter



Project-Based Assessment

A student who does not achieve proficiency on a Keystone Exam after 2 attempts will be eligible to complete a project-based assessment.

Projects will be:

- Aligned with Keystone Exam modules
- Developed by the department and administered by school staff
- Scored by regional panels of educators



Stand-Alone Requirement

Some districts may choose to require proficiency on a Keystone Exam as a stand-alone graduation requirement.

This allows:

- District discretion on how to weigh the assessment in course grading – meaning that the 33 % weight is not required.
- Districts to be deemed approved for validation requirements in a content area without having to undergo a local validation process.

Graduation Requirements Resources

Visit the new Graduation Requirements section of the SAS website for updated information, resources, and events: www.pdesas.org/Assessment/Graduation

The screenshot shows the SAS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Pennsylvania Department of Education logo, the SAS logo (Standards Aligned System), and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there are several tabs: Clear Standards, Fair Assessments (highlighted), Curriculum Framework, Instruction, Materials & Resources, and Interventions. Underneath, there is a secondary navigation bar with tabs: About, Keystone Exams, Assessment Creator, Reference Materials, Classroom Diagnostic Tools, and Graduation Requirements (highlighted). The main content area features a grid of four buttons: Overview, Communication Tools & Resources, Implementation Timeline, and Updates & Events Calendar. Below this is the 'PENNSYLVANIA GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS' logo and the heading 'Pennsylvania's New Graduation Requirements'. A blue icon of a graduate is shown next to a text block that states: 'The Commonwealth's new graduation requirements will help guarantee that a Pennsylvania diploma reflects the skills and knowledge graduating students need to be successful in college and the workplace. These requirements will allow districts to ensure students – beginning with the class of 2015 – are meeting state standards. Through the SAS site, the Pennsylvania Department of Education will provide downloadable resources to guide planning and implementation, customizable tools and templates to help educators better inform parents and students, and general information and [frequently asked questions](#) concerning the new graduation requirements, including the [Keystone Exams](#).' At the bottom, there are two boxes: 'News and Announcements' with the text 'Join us December 5-8, 2010 for the SAS Institute: Bridging Research and Practice' and 'Contact Us' with the text 'For more information or questions about Pennsylvania's new Graduation Requirements contact us at ra-gradreq@state.pa.us'.