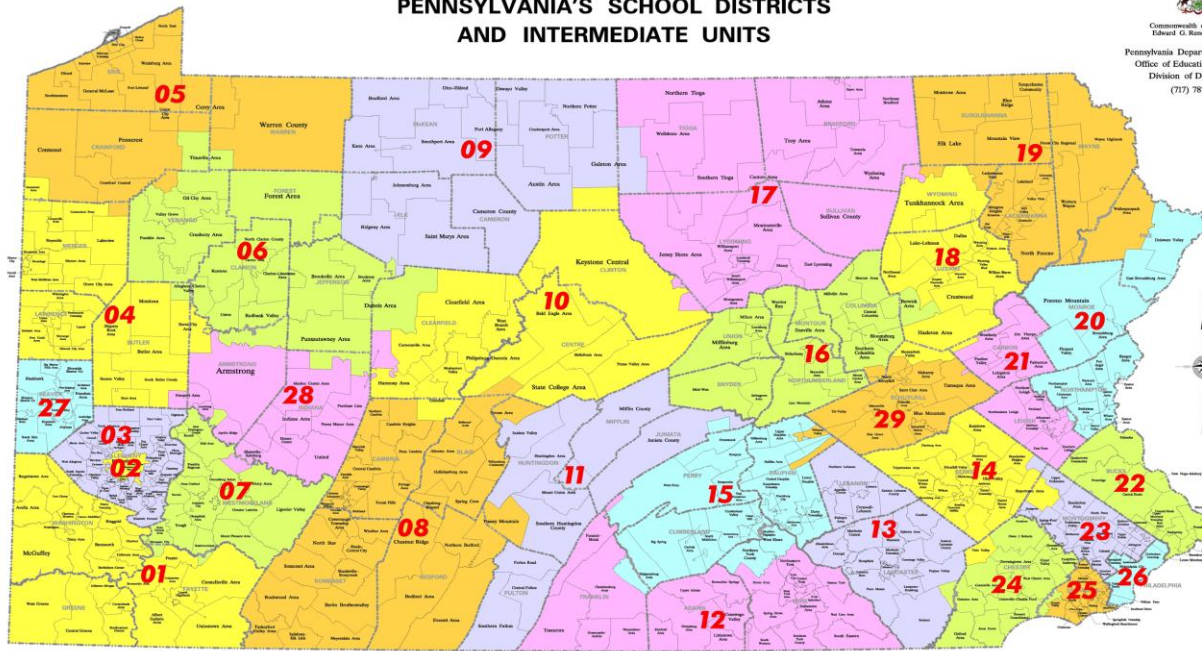


# PA KEYSTONE EXAMS

## PENNSYLVANIA'S SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND INTERMEDIATE UNITS



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Edward G. Rendell, Governor  
Pennsylvania Department of Education  
Office of Educational Technology  
Division of Data Services  
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### PENNSYLVANIA'S INTERMEDIATE UNITS

**Key - IU Name**

- 01** - Intermediate Unit 1
- 02** - Pittsburgh - Mt. Oliver IU 2
- 03** - Allegheny IU 3
- 04** - Midwestern IU 4
- 05** - Northwest Tri - County IU 5
- 06** - Riverview IU 6
- 07** - Westmoreland IU 7
- 08** - Appalachia IU 8

**Key - IU Name**

- 09** - Seneca Highlands IU 9
- 10** - Central IU 10
- 11** - Tuscarora IU 11
- 12** - Lincoln IU 12
- 13** - Lancaster - Lebanon IU 13
- 14** - Berks County IU 14
- 15** - Capital Area IU 15
- 16** - Central Susquehanna IU 16

**Key - IU Name**

- 17** - Blast IU 17
- 18** - Luzerne IU 18
- 19** - Northeastern Educational IU 19
- 20** - Colonial IU 20
- 21** - Carbon - Lehigh IU 21
- 22** - Bucks County IU 22
- 23** - Montgomery County IU 23
- 24** - Chester County IU 24

**Key - IU Name**

- 25** - Delaware County IU 25
- 26** - Philadelphia IU 26
- 27** - Beaver Valley IU 27
- 28** - ARIN IU 28
- 29** - Schuylkill IU 29
- County Boundary Line

Disclaimer:  
Map is for reference purposes only.  
School District boundaries are approximate.



## PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

# WHAT ARE KEYSTONE EXAMS?

**Keystone Exams are state mandated, end-of-course tests intended as a measure of proficiency in identified subjects.**

# HAVE THE KEYSTONE EXAMS REPLACED THE PSSA?

- Yes, the Keystone Exams have replaced the PSSA in grade 11
- However, PSSA tests remain in place for grades 3-8

# What is the difference between the Keystone exams and the “Old” PSSA

- The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments. They contain only content related to a particular course of study.
- The “old” grade 11 PSSA measured standards mastered in grades 9, 10, and 11. In math, for example, the PSSA tested standards from Geometry, Algebra I, and Algebra II

# HOW WILL KEYSTONE EXAM RESULTS BE USED BY PA?

Student performance on Keystone Exams will be used by the State for two purposes:

- 1.** Students in classes of 2017 and beyond will be required to pass certain Keystone Exams to earn a high school diploma.
- 2.** Beginning in 2013, high schools will be held accountable for the participation and performance of all students on the Literature and Algebra I Keystone Exams. These Keystones will be used to report the AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) of the high schools.

# ABOUT HOW LONG DOES KEYSTONE EXAM TAKE?

- Each Keystone module takes about 90 minutes to administer.
- Each Keystone Exam has 2 separate modules.

# What is the difference between questions on algebra I keystone & “old” pssa?

- Questions on Algebra I Keystone focus on Algebra I content, including Statistics
- The PSSA was more about 9-11 mathematics (geometry, algebra II, some trig)
- Keystones more rigorous:
  - Conceptual rather than skill-based
  - Assesses application and reasoning
- Constructed response, i.e., student must give written response to explain answer, now a MAJOR component
  - Keystone = 40% or 24/60 points
  - PSSA = 17% or 12/72 points

# **CAN A STUDENT EARN COURSE CREDIT BY PASSING KEYSTONE WITHOUT TAKING THE COURSE**

**No, the Downingtown Area School district has no plans to enable students to earn credit for a course by examination.**



# WHEN DO STUDENTS TAKE KEYSTONE EXAMS?

## Keystone Exams:

- attached to a particular course, not a student's grade level
- designed to be administered like final exams at the completion of related course

# **WILL PA APPLY TEST RESULTS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS?**

**Yes, if a student completes a course aligned to a Keystone Exam during the middle school years, the state requires the proficiency outcome to be used to determine eligibility for a high school diploma.**

# HOW ARE WE PREPARING FOR KEYSTONE EXAMS?

- Study Island Benchmark Testing
- Professional development for all professional staff on Common Core Standards
- Align curriculum and instruction with Common Core Standards
- Align assessments to format and structure of keystones
  - Classroom based assessments
  - Common assessments

# WILL THERE BE TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS?

- As with PSSA tests, students with special needs may take Keystone Exams with accommodations listed in the IEP, subject to any limitations the state applies to a particular test
- The PASA will still be available for select students.

# WHY WAS THE PSSA-M ELIMINATED?

The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) is no longer permitting states to use alternative assessments based upon modified achievement standards

# WHAT IF A STUDENT DOES NOT PASS A KEYSTONE EXAM?

Schools will provide remediation as appropriate.

**Remediation for 2012-13 school year:**

- **High School:**
  - Teacher during Algebra II course
  - Substitutes or DASD Teachers during:
    - Study halls
    - After-school
    - Math Skills Class
- **Middle School**
  - Teacher during Algebra II course
  - Substitutes or DASD Teachers during:
    - Reach time
    - After School
    - Before School

# TRANSITION TO KEYSTONE EXAMS



# WHICH SUBJECTS HAVE A RELATED KEYSTONE EXAM?

**Keystone Exams have been developed in the following content areas:**

- Literature
- Algebra I
- Biology

**Additional Keystone Exams are being developed for**

- Composition (class of 2019 and beyond)
- Civics and Government (class of 2020 and beyond)

**VOLUNTARY keystones:**

- Geometry
- Algebra II
- Chemistry
- World History
- U.S. History



# TIMELINE FOR ADMINISTERING KEYSTONE EXAMS

Grade Level	Grade 11 Winter 2012	Grade 10 Spring 2013	Grade 9 Spring 2013	Grade 8 Spring 2013
<b>2012-13</b>	Algebra I English Lit Biology	Algebra I Biology English Lit	Algebra I Biology	Algebra I
<b>2013-14</b>		<b>Grade 11 Winter 2013</b>	<b>Grade 10 Spring 2014</b>	<b>Grade 9 Spring 2014</b>
		Remediate & Retest	English Lit Remediate & Retest Algebra I Biology	Remediate & Retest Algebra I Algebra I Biology
<b>2014-15</b>			<b>Grade 11 Winter 2014</b>	<b>Grade 10 Spring 2015</b>
			Remediate & Retest	English Lit Biology Remediate & Retest Algebra I
<b>2015-16</b>				<b>Grade 11 Winter 2015</b>
				Remediate & Retest

# 2012-13 TRANSITION GRADE 11

All 11<sup>th</sup> grade students take 3  
Keystone Exams:

- Algebra I
- English Literature
- Biology (AYP Participation only)

# WHY TAKE THE BIOLOGY KEYSTONE?

- Required by Pennsylvania Department of Education as a NCLB (No Child Left Behind)
- Requirement that all states administer a Science exam at each instructional level
- Elementary administers a Science PSSA in grade 4
- Middle school administers a Science PSSA in grade 8
- High school administers a Biology Keystone (Science) Exam at the end of the course.

# Class of 2017

**Class of 2017 (Grade 8 in 2012-13) must score Proficient on 3 Keystone Exams for AYP and Graduation Requirement:**

- Algebra I
- English Literature
- Biology (AYP Participation only)

# WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS FOR CLASS OF 2017 AND BEYOND

- Students **MUST** score proficient or better in all specified Keystone Exams in order to graduate from high school.
- They can do so in multiple attempts.
- This is a state requirement.
- After 2 unsuccessful attempts combined with required **supplemental instruction**, students will have the option of completing a state-created and state-scored project based assessment in their senior year.
- The parameters for this project have not been finalized yet.

# Class of 2019

**Class of 2019 (Grade 6 in 2012-13) must score Proficient on 4 Keystone Exams for AYP and Graduation Requirement:**

- Algebra I
- English Literature
- English Composition (AYP Participation only)
- Biology (AYP Participation only)

# Class of 2020

**Class of 2020 (Grade 5 in 2012-13) must score Proficient on 5 Keystone Exams for AYP and Graduation Requirement:**

- Algebra I
- English Literature
- English Composition (AYP Participation only)
- Biology (AYP Participation only)
- Civics & Government (AYP Participation only)

# THANK YOU!





# TRANSITION TO THE NEW PSSA



# PSSA TRANSITION

## GRADES 3-8 ~ 2012-13

### ■ Same:

- Grades 3-8 Reading and Mathematics PSSA
- Grades 5 and 8 Writing PSSA
- Grades 4 and 8 Science PSSA
- PASA for identified students with IEPs

### ■ **NEW:**

- No PSSA-M
- No 11<sup>th</sup> grade PSSA
- All assessments offered online and paper/pencil

# PSSA TRANSITION ELEMENTARY ~ 2013-2014

## ■ **NEW:**

- Grades 3, 4, 5 new *English Language Arts PSSA* aligned to Common Core State Standards
- Grades 3, 4, 5 *new Mathematics PSSA* aligned to Common Core State Standards

## ■ **SAME:**

- Grades 4 and 8 Science PSSA aligned with current assessment anchor content standards
- PASA for identified students with IEPs
- Assessments offered on-line and paper/pencil

# PSSA TRANSITION

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ~ 2013-2014

- **SAME:**
  - Grades 6-8 Reading and Mathematics PSSA
  - Grade 8 Writing PSSA
  - PASA for identified students with IEPs

# PSSA TRANSITION

## GRADES 3-8 ~ 2014-2015

### ■ NEW:

- Grades 6, 7, 8 *English Language Arts (ELA)* PSSA aligned to Common Core State Standards
- Grades 6, 7, 8 *Mathematics PSSA* aligned to Common Core Standards.

### ■ SAME:

- Grades 3, 4, 5 ELA & Math PSSA aligned to Common Core Standards
- Grades 4 and 8 Science PSSA aligned to current PA assessment anchor content standards.
- All assessments offered on-line and paper/pencil

# GRADUATION PROJECT

**Beginning with class of 2017**  
(current Grade 8)

**Students will NOT complete a  
Graduation Project**