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October 16, 2023

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

Assessment results for students who participated in Spring 2023 Keystone Exam testing are being mailed home this week. These reports were just released by the PA Department of Education (PDE) and will help you understand your child's academic progress on the assessments. Report interpretation guides are available on PDE's website using the following [link](#). Transcripts for students in grades 10-12 are also being mailed home to help students and parents/guardians better understand your child's overall academic progress.

Beginning with the Class of 2023, successful completion of the Keystone Exams has become a graduation requirement. Through Act 158, PDE has outlined alternative pathways for a student to achieve this statewide graduation requirement. The pathways provide various measures to ensure the college and career readiness of your child. A Pathways to Graduation summary letter was also included in the mailing. It is important to begin looking at how your child will meet this academic requirement.

Students will need to meet one of the five pathways listed below:

1. **Keystone Proficient Pathway** – score Proficient or Advanced on all three exams.
2. **Keystone Composite Pathway** –
 - a. Earn a satisfactory composite score of at least 4452 while achieving Proficiency on at least one exam and a minimum of Basic on the remaining two exams .
 - b. Earn a satisfactory composite score of at least 2939 while achieving Proficiency on one of the exams and a minimum of Basic on the third exam (Eligible students include those who were awarded a non-numeric proficiency in Spring 2020 on one Keystone Exam).
3. **Alternative Assessment Pathway** – One piece of evidence needed and examples include:
 - a. Attainment of an approved alternative assessment score or better: 970 on the PSAT/NMSQT, 1010 on the SAT, 21 on the ACT, or 31 on the ASVAB AFQT
 - b. Acceptance into a 4yr Institution of Higher Education for college-level coursework
4. **Evidence-Based Pathway** – Three pieces of evidence needed and examples include:

List 1: One or more pieces of evidence from the following list:

 - Attainment of a 3 or better on any AP Exam
 - Successful completion of any concurrent enrollment (dual enrollment) or postsecondary course
 - Attainment of industry-recognized credentialization
 - Acceptance into an other-than 4yr Institution of Higher Education for college-level coursework

List 2: No more than two pieces of evidence from the following list:

 - Attainment of Proficient or Advanced on any Keystone Exam
 - Successful completion of a service-learning project
 - Letter guaranteeing full-time employment or military enlistment
 - Completion of an internship, externship, or cooperative education program
 - Compliance with NCAA Division II academic requirements
5. **Career and Technical Education Pathway** – successful completion of industry-based competency certification through program of studies at LCTI

Students who have not yet achieved proficiency or one of the Pathways to Graduation may elect to participate in retesting during the Winter or Spring Keystone Exam Testing Windows - Dates are outlined at the end of this letter. Students interested in retesting in the winter should sign up using the following [Keystone Exam 2023-24 Registration Form](#). Students enrolled in a Keystone aligned course

(Algebra 1, Biology, and English 10) will take the Keystone Exam as an end of course assessment during the spring testing window.

As you may recall, the Keystone exams were not administered in Spring 2020. Students, who completed a designated Keystone course (Algebra 1, English 10, and Biology) by earning a passing grade, were issued a “Proficient rating”. It is important to understand that the “Proficient rating” did not have an assigned numerical score. Students in the Classes of 2024 are encouraged to take these Keystones exams to acquire a numerical score or an “Advanced” rating to fully access all possible pathways to graduation.

Additional information regarding the revised graduation requirements and the Pathways to graduation may be obtained by visiting the PDE’s website at <https://www.education.pa.gov> and click on Data and Reporting - Assessments - [Keystone Exams](#) or [Graduation Requirements](#) or through the PDE’s [SAS Portal](#). Further information is also available in the [WHS Program of Studies](#) section of the high school website.

Students wishing additional preparation for the Keystone Exam are encouraged to access their Google Classroom resources or use Study Island, IXL, USA Test Prep or Khan Academy, which can be accessed using their assigned classroom login and password. Students who desire additional supplemental instruction are encouraged to reach out to their English, Math or Science teacher or enroll in after-school tutoring. Various opportunities will be available for students to participate in after-school preparation programs throughout the school year.

If you have any additional questions or comments regarding this information or the state assessments being administered during the 2023-24 school year, please feel free to contact me or your child’s counselor.

Sincerely,

Heather E. Hampton

Heather E. Hampton
Assistant Principal / WHS Assessment Coordinator

2023-2024 Keystone Exam Testing Schedule

- **Winter Keystone Exam Testing Window: (Retesting)**
Sign up By November 15, 2023 using the [Keystone Exam 2023-24 Registration Form](#)
Literature: December 4, 2023
Biology: December 11, 2023
Algebra 1: January 4, 2024
- **Spring Keystone Exam Testing Window: (Retesting & End of Course Testing)**
Literature: May 14, 2024
Algebra 1: May 15, 2024
Biology: May 16, 2024