



October 20, 2020

Dear Parents of 9th, 10th, and 11th Grade Students;

The class of 2022 (current 11th graders) and beyond will graduate using the expanded options as defined by new legislation, [Act 158](#). According to Act 158, there will be several different pathways that students can use to graduate. Those options include one of the following: With each option students must earn a passing grade in the Keystone courses and...

1. Pass all three Keystone Exams (Algebra I, Literature 10, and Biology)
2. Earn a satisfactory composite score as long as one of the test scores is Proficient or higher and the other two scores are Basic.
3. Pass EEACS coursework, with additional evidence as part of the career portfolio.
4. Satisfactorily complete an alternate test such as the ACT, PSAT, SAT, ASVAB, AP, etc.
5. Pass via goals written in a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Participation in each of the three Keystone Exams continues to be a state requirement. EEACS provides students with two opportunities to demonstrate proficiency. After receiving a non-proficient score on the second attempt, students will need to identify another pathway to graduate. General information about the testing schedule, scores, and opting out are included within this letter and can also be found on the EEACS Standards & Assessment page.

Those students who have taken Algebra 1, Biology, and/or English 10 and have never tested in those areas are required to test. For students who did not take the respective exams in spring of 2020 due to the Covid-19 school closure, they may either opt out, which means they will need to choose options 3, 4, or 5 above to graduate **OR** they can sign up to take the respective test this winter (December) or in the spring (May) of 2021. All students who previously scored Basic or Below Basic on any Keystone Exam will also have the opportunity to re-test.

A Google form will be sent out to all 10th and 11th grade parents and it will be required to indicate your decision with making up the test or opting out. If you have any questions about this please contact your student's career advisor.

If your child has taken a Keystone Exam in the past, you may find out their "Best" score by contacting your child's career advisor: Mrs. Weiss or Mr. Rivera. The "Best" score represents the highest score earned, to date, when factoring in all attempts by an individual student on a specific exam. Students whose "Best" score is Proficient or Advanced will not retake that exam at any point in the future.

All students currently enrolled in Algebra 1, Biology, and/or English 10 will take the respective exams in the spring. Students must participate in testing if they are eligible to take a Keystone Exam. The only exemption provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is for religious reasons. In order to opt your child out of Keystone Exam testing, please contact your Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Heidi Becker, to make arrangements to preview the tests. After previewing the tests, any formal written waiver request must be sent to Tiffany O'Brien, CAO. The only other exemption for opting out is for the 19-20 cohort that was unable to take the test due to the Covid-19 school closure.

Additional testing information can be found on the EEACS Standards & Assessment page. Please contact Heidi Becker, the high school Director of Curriculum and Instruction if you have further questions.

Sincerely,
Tiffany O'Brien, CAO