



DALLASTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

KEYSTONE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN NOVEMBER 15, 2010

OVERVIEW OF THE TESTING PROGRAM

As described in provisions found under the topic “Assessment” in Chapter 4 of Title 22: **Code of Pennsylvania**, students can meet graduation requirements through any or a combination of:

1. Successful course completion, with Keystone Final Exam as defined in Chapter 4 of the **Code**;
2. Rigorous, independently validated local assessments or the use of a student’s proficient or advanced proficient score on the Keystone Exams;
3. Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams; and
4. Proficiency on certain Keystone Exams as a “stand alone” graduation requirement.

After much deliberation, the Keystone Exam Committee of Dallastown Area School District determined that the “Keystone Exam Stand Alone Option” would comprise the district’s Implementation Plan. The purpose of this document is to provide the framework for implementation containing guidelines, timelines, and policy change recommendations.

The Keystone Exams (hereafter referred to as the “Exams”) are end-of-course assessments designed to delineate student proficiency in various subject areas: Algebra I, Algebra II, biology, chemistry, civics and government, literature, U.S. history, and world history. When fully implemented, the Exams will “not count” as part of the student’s course grade, but will count towards graduation as a stand-alone requirement. The Keystone Exam score will be posted on the transcript.

The Exams are but one component of Pennsylvania’s high school graduation requirements. Students must also earn state and district specified credits, successfully complete a culminating project, and meet district requirements of proficiency to receive a DASD high school diploma.

Briefly, for the Class of 2015, in addition to state and local graduation requirements, students must demonstrate proficiency in English composition, literature, Algebra I and biology.

Beginning with the class of 2017, in addition to meeting state and local graduation requirements, students must display course and Keystone Exam proficiency through:

- Passing two (2) English exams (Composition and Literature)
- Passing two (2) math exams (Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry)
- Passing one (1) science exam (Biology or Chemistry)
- Passing one (1) social studies exam (options include Civics, American History, or World History)

DASD will implement the Keystone Exams as they become available from the state, beginning in the 2010-11 school year. The district's plan is to utilize all ten (10) Exams, but to require six (6) of the ten (10) within the context specified above. Students may elect to take all ten Exams, but six of the ten must be considered "proficient" or "advanced proficient" within the combinations specified for the class of 2017.

GUIDELINES

For All Students:

Beginning with the 2010-11 school year, consistent with the Subject Area Keystone Exam Correlation Chart, students will take the appropriate Exam if the student is currently taking a DASD course for which the Algebra I, Biology or Literature Keystone Exam is listed. For sampling purposes, students in additional math courses will be identified for inclusion in testing that year.

For the 2011-12 school year, exams will be available for Algebra II, Geometry, and Composition; DASD students taking the courses listed in the Correlation Chart listed below will be required to take the Exam for development of statewide scaled and cutoff scores. For sampling purposes, additional participation by students in other courses may be identified for inclusion in testing.

The implementation process will expand in subsequent years to include the remaining Exams at the appropriate course levels until full implementation occurs in 2015 (according to the most recent state documents).

At the conclusion of the course, students will be permitted to participate in two Exam sessions. If the student has not scored proficient after twice taking the Exam, the student may complete the project option or attempt to be proficient on the Exam for a third time.

Exams will be given at the conclusion of the following grade(s) or course(s) in each subject:

SUBJECT AREA – KEYSTONE EXAM CORRELATION CHARTS

ENGLISH

<i>Composition</i>	<i>Literature</i>
Grade 9	Grade 10

MATHEMATICS

<i>Algebra I</i>	<i>Algebra II</i>	<i>Geometry</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Honors Algebra I▶ Algebra I▶ Intermediate Algebra I▶ Applied Algebra I	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Honors Algebra II▶ Algebra II▶ Intermediate Algebra II▶ Applied Algebra II	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Honors Geometry▶ Geometry▶ Informal Geometry▶ Applied Geometry

SCIENCES

<i>Biology</i>	<i>Chemistry</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Biology I▶ Biology I C/C▶ Honors Biology I	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Chemistry I▶ Honors Chemistry I

SOCIAL STUDIES

<i>World History</i>	<i>Civics & Government</i>	<i>American History</i>
<p>▶ World Cultures (Grade 9) -World History Keystone Exam</p> <p>A. <i>World Cultures MC</i></p> <p>B. <i>World Cultures C/C</i></p> <p>C. <i>World Cultures - Level 1</i></p> <p>D. <i>World Cultures - Level 2</i></p> <p>E. <i>Honors World Cultures</i></p>	<p>▶ United States History I (Grade 10) - Civic Keystone Exam</p> <p>(This course includes one marking period of Civics, followed by three marking periods covering the Gilded Age through the New Deal.)</p> <p>A. <i>United States History I MC</i></p> <p>B. <i>United States History I C/C</i></p> <p>C. <i>United States History I – Level 1</i></p> <p>D. <i>United States History I – Level 2</i></p> <p>E. <i>Honors United States History</i></p>	<p>▶ United States History II (Grade 11) – United States History Exam</p> <p>(This course covers United States history from start of World War II through the present day.)</p> <p>A. <i>United States History II MC</i></p> <p>B. <i>United States History II C/C</i></p> <p>C. <i>United States History II – Level 1</i></p> <p>D. <i>United States History II – Level 2</i></p> <p>E. <i>United States History II – Level 3</i></p> <p>▶ Advanced Placement United States History (Grade 11) – United States History Exam</p>

For Transfer Students:

The Pennsylvania Department of Education will promulgate guidelines about handling transfer students pertaining to both in-state and out of state scenarios. Until PDE guidance is received, counselors and/or building administrators will examine student records for those transferring from **in-state** school districts, including state and locally funded charter and cyber-charter schools. Course schedules, re-takes of the Exams, and other decisions affecting the student’s progress towards graduation will be constructed at that time.

Likewise, PDE is formulating guidelines for **out-of-state** transfer students. Consequently, until state guidance is received, the district's counselors will examine the student's transcript, and will place the student appropriately in courses based upon those s/he have taken. Using the six (6) course Exam minimum within the combination provided in the OVERVIEW section of this document, the student will be guided into courses with Exams in order to meet graduation requirements in the Exam area. If the out-of-state student enters the high school at a point at which that requirement cannot be met (for example, entering the senior year with no Exams taken), PDE guidance will be followed.

For Students with Disabilities (current IEP or 504 Plan in force) and other populations (such as ELL):

PDE has stated that accommodations will be available although no information has been issued at the time of this writing. DASD will follow the PDE guidance when it becomes available, including any alternative tests if these are developed.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN & TIMELINE

(Actual tests; weighting; class year/tests; graduation policy changes/schedule for consideration; other)

To comply with PDE's two part phase-in of the graduation requirements, students in the Class of 2015 and Class of 2016 must pass English Composition, Literature, Algebra I, and Biology Keystone Exams.

As stated in the Overview, for the Class of 2017 and beyond, students must demonstrate proficiency in six of ten content areas:

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

During the 2010-11 school year, students completing Algebra I in 2011 will take that Keystone Exam (see table above). Additionally, consistent with the academic course tables above, students completing biology courses will take the Biology Keystone Exam, and tenth grade students will take the Literature Exam. There will be no penalties or weighting of the Exam results on students' grades or graduation requirements.

For the 2011-12 school year, students taking any Algebra I, Algebra II, biology, and chemistry course will take the Exam associated with this area. Additionally, students in

the Class of 2015 and subsequent class graduation years will take the Composition Exam at the end of grade 9 and the Literature Exam at the end of grade 10.

For the 2012-13 school year, students in the Class of 2015 and beyond who are enrolled in any course for which an Exam is associated will take the appropriate operational Exam (see Correlation Chart) unless the student previously took that Exam and achieved proficiency.

PROJECT ALTERNATIVE

Any student who does not score proficient on a Keystone Exam after two attempts will be eligible to complete a project-based assessment, provided the student has taken the course and met local attendance and supplemental instruction requirements. The regulation includes a waiver provision, which can be used by the Secretary of Education to exempt an individual student from the graduation requirements.

Students will qualify for projects if he/she

1. has taken the course.
2. was unsuccessful after two attempts with the Keystone exam.
3. has met DASD's attendance requirements for the course.
4. has participated in supplemental instructional services.

According to PDE, projects will be

- aligned with the Keystone Exam modules
- developed by the department
- administered by school staff
- scored by regional panels of educators
- developed so that points will be added to a student's highest Keystone score if his/her performance is judged "satisfactory."

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The district will provide supplemental and remedial instruction through before and after school tutoring, availability of teacher *Moodle* sites and cyber instructional activities, math lab remediation, and peer tutoring. Additionally, the district has made available a number of spaces for *Tutor.com* to supplement instruction.

Prior to a retest, review sessions will be scheduled by each department.

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