

## **Executive Summary:**      **New PDE Graduation Requirements**

### **Summary:**

Pennsylvania has recently enacted new graduation requirements for students beginning with the Class of 2015. While this matter was discussed once previously with the CIT Committee, there is some additional new information that has been released by the PDE. This is included in the attached PowerPoint presentation.

### **Implications:**

The Board of Directors will need to make a policy decision about graduation requirements within the next couple of months. At present, the state permits the following choices for districts with regard to the use of the Keystone exams.

- Each district in Pennsylvania will decide which of the four assessment pathways works best for its students and can vary between course subjects.
  1. Keystone Exam counting as at least 33% of course grade
  2. Keystone Exam as a stand-alone graduation requirement
  3. Independently-validated local assessment
  4. AP/IB exam

### **Actions to Date:**

Administration has been attending various workshops and trainings as they have become available. The curriculum coordinators held discussion about their preference for our students at their last meeting and will be discussing the new information with their teachers at the professional development workshops on February 21. The ideas and opinions of the staff will be presented to CIT for their consideration in making a policy recommendation to the Board at the February CIT meeting.

### **Resources:**

Further information should be available at:

<http://www.pdesas.org/Assessment/Graduation>