



# **PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS:**

Pennsylvania's New High School  
Graduation Requirements

January 12, 2011



# Big Picture: How Does It All Connect?

*Two-thirds of all new jobs created in the United States require at least some postsecondary education*

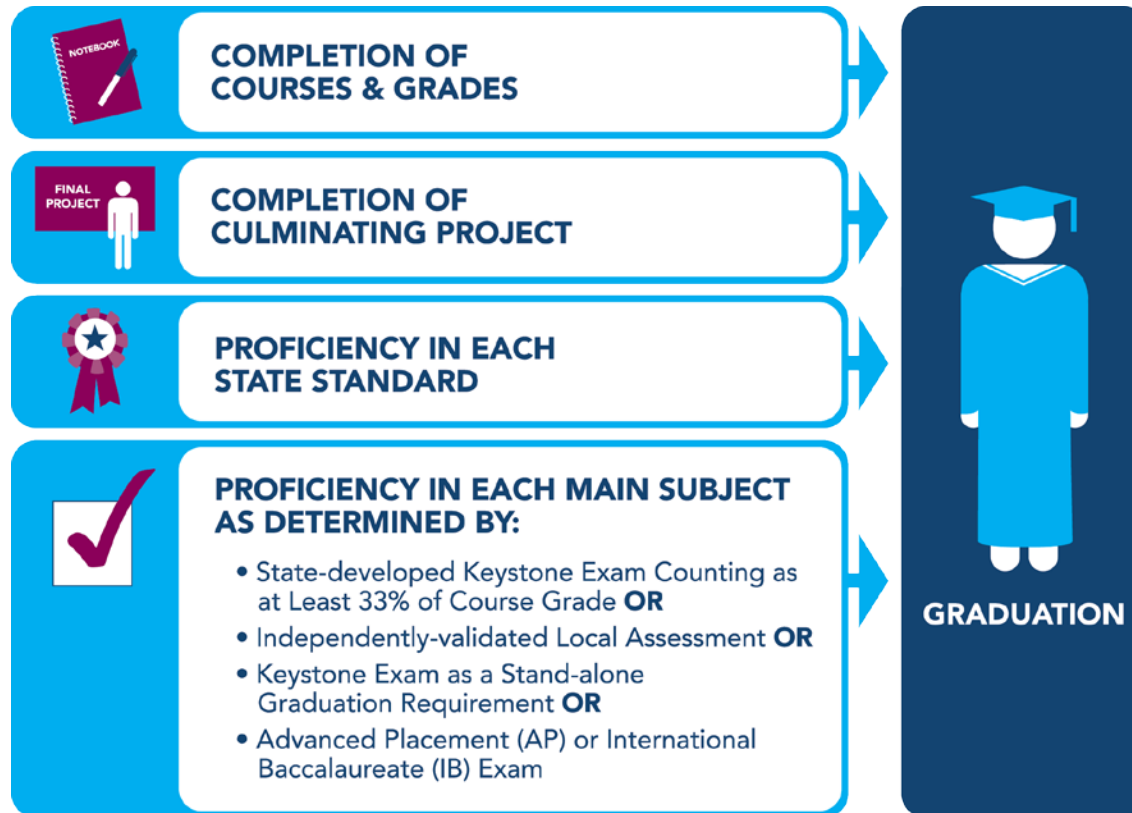
It's critical that we prepare all students to graduate high school with the potential to continue their studies and grow their skills.

## **New Graduation Requirements and Assessments:**

- Designed to help all students, beginning with the class of 2015, demonstrate proficiency in state academic standards
- Complement the standards that guide Pennsylvania's high schools' education systems: Pennsylvania Standards and the Common Core State Standards
- Grounded in Pennsylvania's comprehensive approach to supporting student achievement using the Standards Aligned System (SAS) portal

# Graduation Requirements

School district graduation policies must *at least* include:



# Graduation Policy Phases

**PHASE ONE: Students graduating in 2015 and 2016 must demonstrate proficiency in:**

- English Composition
- Literature
- Algebra I
- Biology

**PHASE TWO: Students graduating in 2017 and beyond must demonstrate proficiency in:**

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



# Alignment to Standards

- Keystone Exams align with Pennsylvania's Standards Aligned System (SAS) and the Common Core State Standards
- The Keystone Exams are simply a new assessment tool for Pennsylvania school districts
- Test questions for the Keystone Exams in English and Math will be guided by Eligible Content on the Standards Aligned System website ([www.pdesas.org](http://www.pdesas.org))



# What's Happening When: Fall 2010

## Field Testing:

- Field testing of Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams
- The exams will be made available to mostly high school students and some middle school students in participating school districts

Course	Field Test
Algebra I, Biology, Literature	Fall 2010



# What's Happening When: Spring 2011

## Field Testing:

- Field testing of Algebra II, Geometry, and English Composition Keystone Exams

Course	Field Test
Algebra II, Geometry, English Composition	Spring 2011

## Operational Administration:

- Operational administration of Algebra I, Biology, and Literature begins

Course	Operational
Algebra I, Biology, Literature	Spring 2011





# What's Happening When: Spring 2011

## Operational and Field Test Exam Schedule

SPRING 2011 Keystone Exam Testing Schedule (Operational and Field Test)

KEYSTONE EXAMS	Traditional 10-month Schedule					Block Schedule				
	ONLINE Test Dates	Paper/ Pencil Test Dates	Paper/ Pencil Materials Return Date	Make-Up Test Dates	Make-Up Materials Return Date	ONLINE Test Dates	Paper/ Pencil Test Dates	Paper/ Pencil Materials Return Date	Make-Up Test Dates	Make-Up Materials Return Date
Literature (operational)	May 2-6, 2011	May 2-3, 2011	May 4, 2011	May 6 & 9, 2011	May 10, 2011	May 9-13, 2011	May 9-10, 2011	May 11, 2011	May 13 & 16, 2011	May 17, 2011
Biology (operational)	May 2-6, 2011	May 2-3, 2011	May 4, 2011	May 6 & 9, 2011	May 10, 2011	May 9-13, 2011	May 9-10, 2011	May 11, 2011	May 13 & 16, 2011	May 17, 2011
Algebra I (operational)	May 3-9, 2011	May 3-4, 2011	May 5, 2011	May 6 & 9, 2011	May 10, 2011	May 10-16, 2011	May 10-11, 2011	May 12, 2011	May 13 & 16, 2011	May 17, 2011
English Composition (Field Test)	May 3-9, 2011	May 3-4, 2011	May 5, 2011	May 6 & 9, 2011	May 10, 2011	May 10-16, 2011	May 10-11, 2011	May 12, 2011	May 13 & 16, 2011	May 17, 2011
Algebra II (Field Test)	May 4-10, 2011	May 4-5, 2011	May 6, 2011	May 6 & 9, 2011	May 10, 2011	May 11-17, 2011	May 11-12, 2011	May 13, 2011	May 13 & 16, 2011	May 17, 2011
Geometry (Field Test)	May 4-10, 2011	May 4-5, 2011	May 6, 2011	May 6 & 9, 2011	May 10, 2011	May 11-17, 2011	May 11-12, 2011	May 13, 2011	May 13 & 16, 2011	May 17, 2011





# What's Happening When: Five-Year Implementation Plan

Course	Field Test	Available For All Schools
Algebra I, Biology, Literature	Fall 2010	Spring 2011
Algebra II, Geometry, English Composition	Spring 2011	Winter 2011-2012
U.S. History	Fall 2012	Spring 2013
Chemistry, Civics and Government, World History	Spring 2015	TBD



# 100-Point Scale

Each Keystone Exam is graded on a 100-point scale. The chart below shows the points associated with each performance level.

Performance Level	Points
Below Basic	0
Basic	50-69
Proficient	70-89
Advanced	90-100



# Test Format

## Keystone Exam Questions:

- Includes multiple-choice questions and constructed-response, or open-ended questions.
- Algebra I and Biology: 60%-75% of the total score from multiple-choice questions and; 25%-40% of the total score from constructed-response questions
- English Composition: 20% of the total score will come from multiple-choice, and 80% from constructed-response questions

## Keystone Exam Scoring:

- Each correct multiple-choice question is worth one point
- Partial credit could be given on constructed-response questions, depending on the rubric

## Keystone Exam Format:

- Online and paper/pencil formats available for all Keystone Exams
- Each district will individually determine if online, paper/pencil or both formats will be used
- Each exam will take approximately 2 to 2.5 hours to complete



# Preparation Resources

## Item and Scoring Sampler:

- Sample questions and scoring for each Keystone Exam will be available to help prepare both students and teachers. The Item and Scoring Sampler will include:
  - Multiple-choice and constructed-response practice questions
  - Examples of how constructed-response questions will be scored
- The Item and Scoring Sampler will be available on the SAS website ([www.pdesas.org](http://www.pdesas.org)) beginning spring 2011

## PA Online Assessment Student Tutorial:

- Each online Keystone Exam will have a PA Online Assessment Student Tutorial
  - Learn the properties and features of the PA Online Assessment system
  - Full exploration of the system will take 30 minutes



# Retesting

Students can take the Keystone Exam up to 3 times per school year.

- Students who don't score 'proficient' can retake the entire test or just the module they didn't pass
- Retesting scoring will be based on the highest module scores, so it is in the best interest of the student to retake the entire Keystone Exam
- If a student has not achieved proficiency after 2 attempts, he/she can complete a project-based alternative to demonstrate his/her knowledge in the subject matter



# Project-Based Assessment

A student who does not achieve proficiency on a Keystone Exam after 2 attempts will be eligible to complete a project-based assessment.

## **Projects will be:**

- Aligned with Keystone Exam modules
- Developed by the department and administered by school staff
- Scored by regional panels of educators

- District Policy Decision





# Keystone Exams

A district may choose to administer a state-developed Keystone Exam in core subjects that would serve as the final exam and count for at least 33% of the course grade.

**Beginning with the graduating class of 2015, Keystone Exams are:**

- Administered at the end of the course
- Counted for at least 1/3 of the overall course grade
- Available for students to retake either in their entirety or just a portion (module) 3 times during the year: winter, spring, and summer



# Stand-Alone Requirement

Some districts may choose to require proficiency on a Keystone Exam as a stand-alone graduation requirement.

## This allows:

- District discretion on how to weigh the assessment in course grading – meaning that the 33 % weight is not required.
- Districts to be deemed approved for validation requirements in a content area without having to undergo a local validation process.



# AP/IB National Assessments

- Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) exams can be taken in place of a Keystone Exam or a locally developed assessment
- A high score on either exam in a related content area will fulfill the new graduation requirements
- The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) will release policy guidance regarding the minimum score on each AP or IB exam that will satisfy graduation requirements