



# Keystone Exams

Presented by:

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# What are the Keystone Exams?

## Overview

- The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to evaluate proficiency in academic content. Beginning with the class of 2017, students must demonstrate proficiency on the Algebra 1, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams to graduate.
- If students complete a Keystone related course (i.e. Algebra I) in Middle School, they will take the associated Keystone at that time and the scores are 'banked' until their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year for AYP purposes. In addition, if they are in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade they will also be required to take the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade PSSA in Math, Reading, Science and Writing.
- Students who do not pass the Keystone Exam score must receive remedial instruction and must **retake** the Keystone Exam until a passing final course grade is achieved.

# Keystone Exams

## *Replacement of 11<sup>th</sup> Grade PSSA*

- Beginning in 2012-2013 the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams will replace the 11th grade Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests in mathematics, reading, and science for purposes of satisfying No Child Left Behind (NCLB)/Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements. Therefore, all students in grade 11 must participate in the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams. Additionally, students in any grade who are enrolled in a Keystone related course should participate.
- *If an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student took a Keystone Exam in 2011 as a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student and scored Advanced or Proficient, the results of that Keystone will be used for purposes of accountability. A student who did not score Advanced or Proficient as a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student in 2011 should retest as an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student in 2012-13.*

# Keystone Exams

## *Graduation Requirement*

- Graduation (State requirement)
- Students graduating in 2017 (current 8th graders) and beyond must demonstrate proficiency in English Language Arts, Algebra I, and Biology. Students graduating before 2017 will be required to take the Keystone Exams for AYP purposes but their results will not be counted towards their graduation requirements.
- Future assessments to include (pending budget):
  - Civics / Government
  - Algebra II
  - World History

# Keystone Exams

## *Winter Testing Participation*

- Shaler Area High School will be administering the first wave of Keystone Exams in Literature, Algebra 1 and Biology during the week of December 3-7, 2012.
- The students who will be tested during this wave include:
  - ALL JUNIORS (AYP Requirement)
  - Any student who has already completed the Keystone content course (i.e. Biology, Algebra 1, English 10).
- Parent letter with specific testing information to be sent home in mid-November.
- Spring Assessments for all students completing a Keystone related course will be tested May 13 – 24.

# Keystone Exams

## *Length of Test*

- There is no time limit for a student to complete a Keystone Exam. Each Keystone Exam should take the typical student 2 to 3 hours to complete. There are two modules on each test, and each module (or Test Session) of the Keystone Exam should take 1 to 1.5 hours to complete.
- The written responses for constructed-response questions are scored by evaluators trained in applying a pre-determined scoring system. Scores are based on content only. Except for English Composition, spelling and punctuation are not included as part of the scoring process. Most constructed-response questions require students to show their work or explain their reasoning. These Keystone Exam questions will ask students to explain, analyze, describe, or compare. Some questions will also require students to perform calculations or create graphs, plots, or drawings.

# Keystone Exams

## *Test Question Format*

- The Keystone Exams will include multiple-choice questions and constructed-response, or open-ended, questions. For each Keystone Exam, approximately 60% to 75% of the total score will be from multiple-choice questions and 25% to 40% of the total score will be from constructed-response questions. The English Composition Keystone Exam will be an exception, with 20% of the total score from multiple-choice questions and 80% of the total score from constructed-response questions.

# Keystone Exams

## *Shaler Area's Alignment Process*

- Curriculum Revision and alignment to Keystone Eligible Content for English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- Implementation of STAR Diagnostic Assessment (Grades K-6) for progress monitoring of all students.
- Implementation of Classroom Diagnostic Tool (Grades 7-11).
- Review of student level data from classroom assessments and observations.
- Professional Development on Writing Across the Curriculum for special area teachers (Physical Ed, Art, Music, Tech Ed etc.)



# Keystone Exams

*Additional Information*

Parent Information Meeting  
Monday, November 12, 2012  
6:00 PM  
High School Auditorium.

# Keystone Exams

## *Additional Resources*

For additional information about the Keystone Exams, visit the SAS website at [www.pdesas.org](http://www.pdesas.org)

***Item Samplers and Scoring Guides***

<http://www.pdesas.org/module/assessment/Keystone.aspx#>

# Keystone Exams

## Questions?

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