PA Keystone & PSSA Exams

PRESENTED BY
THE OFFICE OF CURRICULUM OF
THE LOWER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Why these Exams?

Keystone and PSSA Exams will be used for two purposes:

- **Measuring Student Progress in the Standards**
  -- Proposed state requirement that the class of 2017 and beyond demonstrate proficiency for the purpose of graduation

- **Accountability** -- Used to determine whether a school has made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as per No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

- **NOW = School Performance Profile**
Pennsylvania State School Assessment (PSSA) are given in grades 3 through 8.

- In grade 3: Reading & Mathematics
- In grade 4: Reading, Mathematics & Science
- In grade 5: Reading, Mathematics & Writing
- In grade 6: Reading and Mathematics
- In grade 7: Reading and Mathematics
- In grade 8: Reading, Mathematics, Science and Writing
What are the Keystone Exams?

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.

- Students will be offered multiple opportunities throughout their high school careers to take the Keystones in order to reach proficiency
- They will replace the 11\textsuperscript{th} grade PSSAs in 2012-13
Who is Taking the Keystone Exams?

- All 11th grade students must take *all three* Keystone Exams
  - Algebra 1
  - Biology
  - Literature
- Only 11th grade results from the Algebra 1 and Literature exams will be used to calculate School Performance for the 2013-14 school year
Who is Taking the Keystone Exams?

- All non-11th grade students completing a Keystone related course must take the appropriate Keystone Exam
  - Students enrolled in an Algebra 1 course (7th – 10th grade)
  - Students enrolled in Biology (9th grade)
- Non-11th grade students’ results will be banked until they are in 11th grade
- Additional student groups will sit for the exams
  - Any student enrolled in Algebra 1
  - Any student enrolled in Biology
How long is a Keystone Exam administration?

- 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.
- There is no time limit for a student to complete a Keystone Exam.
- Appropriate accommodations will be made for students who require them as per their IEP and as specified in the PA Accommodations Guidelines.
Questions?

Thank you!