

PA Keystone & PSSA Exams



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

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Speakers

2

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Why these Exams?

3

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

PSSA

4

- 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?

5

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 11th grade PSSAs in 2012-13

Who is Taking the Keystone Exams?

6

- 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?

7

- **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?

8

- 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

PA Keystone Exams

9

- Questions ?
- Thank you !