



The Central Bucks Schools will provide all students with the academic and problem-solving skills essential for personal development, responsible citizenship, and life-long learning.

April 2021

Dear Central Bucks Middle School Families,

Earlier this school year, the Pennsylvania State Legislature passed Senate Bill 1216, making several revisions for previous legislation regarding state assessments and graduation requirements. This message serves to inform our families of these legislative revisions and to provide clarity around the implications for your children. Please watch the informational video, [Keystone Exam and Graduation Requirements: Update to Middle School Families](#) if you have not already done so.

### **Students Enrolled in Algebra in 2019-2020**

Any student who was enrolled in Algebra 1 or Algebra 1B and was scheduled to take the Algebra Keystone Exam in Spring of 2020, is considered the Spring 2020 cohort. Students in the Spring 2020 cohort are **not** required to “make-up” the exam. According to the legislation and guidance from the PA Department of Education, these students have been deemed “proficient” if they passed the course last Spring. Central Bucks will not be rostering any students in the Spring 2020 cohort to take the Algebra Keystone Exam this school year. However, any parent wishing for their child to take the exam may do so by completing [this form](#) by May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires students who take the Algebra 1 Keystone to complete the assessment in the building.

### **Students Enrolled in Algebra in 2020-2021**

All students who are taking Algebra 1 or Algebra 1B this school year are required to take the Algebra Keystone exam this Spring. However, parents of children enrolled in a Keystone exam course during the 2020-2021 school year may choose to opt-out of the exam. If a family chooses to opt-out of the exam, they must notify the school in writing of their desire to do so following the process outlined on the [CBSD Assessment Webpage](#) by May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires students who take the Algebra 1 Keystone to complete the assessment in the building.

**Holicong’s testing date is Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

### **Graduation Requirements**

Senate Bill 1216 delayed the timeline for enforcing Keystone Exam proficiency as a graduation requirement until the class of 2023. This means that any student in the class of 2023 or younger will be required to demonstrate proficiency in Algebra 1, Literature, and Biology to earn a diploma by one of the following pathways:

1. **Keystone Proficiency Pathway** – Passing all three Keystone Exams
2. **Composite Score Pathway** – Scoring proficient or advanced on at least one Keystone Exam and scoring at least Basic on the other two Keystone Exams with a minimum composite score of 4452.
3. **Career & Technical Pathway** – Earning a passing grade in a Keystone-aligned course **AND** either:
  - Attaining an industry-based competency certification related to the CTE Concentrator’s program of study
  - OR**
  - Demonstrating a high likelihood of success on an approved industry-based competency assessment or readiness for continued meaningful engagement in the CTE Concentrator’s program of study
4. **Alternate Assessment Pathway** – Earning a passing grade in a Keystone-aligned course **AND** one of the following:



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- Attain the minimum score on one of the following subject-aligned tests: AP (3); PSAT (970); SAT (1010); ACT (21); ASVAB (minimum score required to gain admittance to a branch of the military)  
**OR**
  - Successfully complete a concurrent enrollment course in a subject-aligned course (a list of courses is pending)  
**OR**
  - Be accepted in an accredited 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education
5. **Evidence-Based Pathway** – Earning a passing grade in a Keystone-aligned course **AND** three pieces of evidence
- **At least one of the following:**
    - Attainment of a minimum score ACT WorkKeys assessment, SAT subject-test, or Advanced Placement Exam
    - Acceptance to an accredited nonprofit institution of higher education other than a 4-year institution and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework
    - Attainment of an industry-recognized credential;
    - Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment or postsecondary course
  - **Two additional pieces from the following:**
    - Satisfactory completion of a service-learning project (*currently under development*)
    - Attainment of a score of proficient or advanced on a Keystone Exam
    - A letter guaranteeing full-time employment
    - Certificate of successful completion of an internship or cooperative education
    - Satisfactory compliance with the NCAA’s core courses for college-bound student athletes with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0.

### **Important Note About Opting-Out of Keystone Exams**

While Senate Bill 1216 grants families the ability to opt-out of the exam, and it also allows students in the Spring 2020 cohort to be marked as proficient if they passed their Algebra 1 or Algebra 1B class last school year, it does not exempt students in the class of 2023 and beyond from the graduation requirements enacted with Act 158. Please understand that students in the class of 2023 and younger will still be required to demonstrate proficiency in Algebra 1, Literature, and Biology by successfully completing one of the 5 Pathways above. Students in the Spring 2020 or Spring 2021 cohort who do not take the exam this Spring should discuss their graduation plan with their counselor.

Questions can be directed to your student’s counselor – Mrs. Louderback, Ms. Blankenburg, or Mr. Striano.

Sincerely,

Kevin Shillingford, Principal