



NORRISTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

ACT 158 PATHWAYS - GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2023 AND BEYOND

In addition to the 23 credits required by the Norristown Area School District to graduate from high school, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has enacted new requirements for graduation starting with the Class of 2023. These requirements provide five distinct pathways to meet graduation requirements.

Students must successfully meet the requirements of one of the five pathways outlined below.

PATHWAY 1 - KEYSTONE PROFICIENCY

In addition to completing the required 23 course credits as outlined in the Program of Studies, students must score proficient or advanced on all three Keystone Exams. These exams are given in Algebra, Biology, and Literature. It is important to note that this includes Keystone Exams taken in middle school or another Pennsylvania school district, as well as comparable scores from assessments given in other states.

PATHWAY 2 - KEYSTONE COMPOSITE SCORE

In addition to completing the required 23 course credits as outlined in the Program of Studies, students must score proficient or advanced on at least one Keystone Exam, and no lower than basic on the other two while earning a composite score of 4452 (meaning all three scores added together must equal 4452 or higher). Proficiency requires a score of 1500. A student who scored exactly 1500 on one Keystone Exam would need to average 1476 on the other two Keystone Exams, with neither score being below basic. It is important to note that this includes Keystone Exams taken in middle school or another Pennsylvania school district, as well as comparable scores from assessments given in other states.

PATHWAY 3 - EVIDENCE BASED

In addition to completing the required 23 course credits as outlined in the Program of Studies, students must provide three pieces of evidence regardless of the number of Keystones Exam scores that are below proficient. Students must provide evidence of one Category One option and two Category Two options as listed below:

Category One (must have one)

- A score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam
- Acceptance to any accredited nonprofit post-secondary institution and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level work
- Attainment of an industry-recognized credential
- Successful completion of a Dual Enrollment or postsecondary course

Category Two (must have two)

- Additional items from Category One
- Completing a service-learning project
- Scoring proficient or advanced on a Keystone Exam
- A letter guaranteeing full-time employment
- Successful completion of an internship or cooperative education program
- Meeting the NCAA Clearinghouse requirements, including a 2.0 GPA



PATHWAY 4 - CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

In addition to completing the required 23 course credits as outlined in the Program of Studies, for each Keystone Exam content area in which a student achieves less than Proficient, the student must also meet one of the following:

- Attain an industry-based competency certification related to the student's CTE program
- Demonstrate a high likelihood of success on an approved industry-based competency assessment
- Demonstrate readiness for continued meaningful engagement in the area of the CTE program of study

PATHWAY 5 - ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

In addition to completing the required 23 course credits as outlined in the Program of Studies, for each Keystone content area in which a student achieves less than Proficient, the student must also meet one of the following:

- Score 1010 or higher on the SAT
- Score 970 or above on the PSAT
- Score 21 or above on the ACT
- Attain a composite score of 31 or better on the ASVAB (Armed Forces Qualifying Test)
- Score a 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement Exam that is related to the subject of EACH Keystone Exam for which the student did not score proficient or advanced
- Successfully complete a concurrent course that is related to the subject of EACH Keystone Exam for which the student did not score proficient or advanced
- Successfully complete a pre-apprenticeship program
- Earn acceptance to an accredited four-year nonprofit postsecondary institution AND have evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework (non-remedial)
- ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate - Gold Level

Additional Pathways

- The Pennsylvania Department of Education allows for students with disabilities to earn a diploma upon successful completion of their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) if the IEP team demonstrates and documents that the pathways listed above are outside of the scope of the student's IEP.

or

- The superintendent can grant a waiver to students at the recommendation of the high school principal and the office of education for a student who is unable to meet any of the pathways prior to graduation.

Important Notes

- [More information](#) can be found on the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website.
- Students that did not attain proficiency on the Algebra I Keystone at the middle school level, will have another opportunity to take the Algebra I Keystone exam at the completion of the Algebra II course.