

## **Keystone Exam Preparation**

### **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 I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams to graduate.*** Students will be offered multiple opportunities to take the keystones throughout their high school careers.

### **Keystone Exam Participation**

Because the 11th Grade PSSA has been eliminated, in 2012-2013 all 11th grade students must take the Algebra I, Literature and Biology Keystone Exams. Additionally, any 8th, 9th, or 10th grade student who has previously completed a related Keystone course, or is presently enrolled in a Keystone related course should participate in the associated exam.

### **Keystone Exam Design**

Each Keystone Exam is composed of two modules (test sessions). Each module is designed to take 1 - 1.5 hours to complete. The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and constructed-response, or open-ended questions.

### **Keystone Exam Design Overview by Subject -**

[http://static.pdesas.org/Content/Documents/FINAL\\_Exam\\_Design\\_Overview\\_7-30-2012.pdf](http://static.pdesas.org/Content/Documents/FINAL_Exam_Design_Overview_7-30-2012.pdf)

### **PA Department of Education Keystone Exam Preparation Resources**

Keystone Exam Information for Parents/Guardians (Aug 2012) -

[http://static.pdesas.org/Content/Documents/Information\\_for\\_Parents\\_or\\_Guardians\\_PA\\_Keystone\\_Exams\\_Aug\\_2012\\_final.pdf](http://static.pdesas.org/Content/Documents/Information_for_Parents_or_Guardians_PA_Keystone_Exams_Aug_2012_final.pdf)

Keystone Exam General Information -

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

Keystone Exam Performance Level Descriptors -

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

## **Algebra I Keystone Exam Resource Page -**

[http://www.pdesas.org/module/assessment/algebra\\_1.aspx](http://www.pdesas.org/module/assessment/algebra_1.aspx)

### **Keystone Exam Online Tutorials**

#### Content Area Tutorials

- Go to PA eDIRECT: <https://pa.drcedirect.com>
- Under Test Setup on the left navigation pane, click on General Information
- Go to the Test Tutorials tab
- Click on the play button to view the tutorials
- Keystone Exam Tutorials appear on the right side of the screen (Classroom Diagnostic Tools tutorials are on the left side)

Online Tools Training (OTT) Go to PA eDIRECT: <https://pa.drcedirect.com>

- At the bottom of the web page, select Online Tools Training Software Download - Windows or Mac
- Follow the onscreen instructions to start the OTT. (Note that the user name and password are contained right in the log in screen)

**Keystone Exam Score Reports -** Guide to Interpreting Your Child's Keystone Exam Score - Available in English, Spanish, and other languages:  
<http://www.pdesas.org/module/assessment/Keystone.aspx>

**Cell Phone Policy - Cell phones are NOT permitted in Keystone Exam testing locations. The district strongly recommends that students keep their cell phones at home on the Keystone Exam testing dates. If a student brings his/her cell phone to school, it will be collected prior to testing and returned at the end of the testing session as directed by the PA Department of Education's cell phone policy. To view the PA Department of Education cell phone policy and student consequences for violation of this policy, click on the link to the file in the file listing at the bottom of this web page.**

### **Information on Graduation Requirements -**

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

Additional resources



PA Department of Education Cell Phone Policy (DOC - 22 KB)



Concussions and Participation in State Assessments (DOC - 23 KB)

 Getting Reading for the 2014 State Assessments (PPTX - 4.02 MB)

 2014 Accommodations for PSSAs and Keystones (PDF - 601 KB)