Graduation Requirements in the Keystone Era

How do the new assessments affect my child in Special Education Programming?
This afternoon’s agenda:

• PDE Diploma Options
  • Standards Based Diploma Requirements
  • Non-Standards Based Diploma
• Keystone Exam Requirements
• IEP Team Options
  • The Project Based Assessment Option
  • Graduation on the IEP Goals
PA Diploma Options

Standards Based Diploma – Class of 2017

• Requires successful completion of all required standards based course work
• Requires proficiency on Keystone Exams
• For Students with IEPs – requires successful completion of Transition Goals and Activities in the IEP
• Keystone Score reported on Transcript/Diploma

• Project Based Assessment may be completed as an alternative to the Keystone
PA Diploma Options

Alternatives to the Standards Based Diploma

• Completion of Credits (although not all necessarily standards based)

• Student must attempt Keystone Exam once for AYP Reporting in Algebra I and ELA
  • PASA takes the place of assessment options

• Requires completion of Project Based Assessment if non-proficient on Keystone

• Completion of Transition Goals and Activities in the IEP
What are the Keystone Exams?
How do they fit into graduation requirements?
What are the Keystone Exams?

• 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.

• Students are required to take the exam once in order to fulfill PDE Adequate Yearly Progress requirements.
What are Keystone classes?

Keystone Exams replaced the 11th-grade Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSA) in math, reading, and science for purposes of student, educator, and school accountability.
Who will participate in the Keystone Exams?

• Students should take the Keystone Exams at or near the end of a Keystone-related course.
  
  • IEP team may opt to administer Keystone Exam without completion of Coursework

• The students' results are used for accountability purposes up to their junior year and until their senior year for graduation purposes.

• Students who take a Keystone Exam and do not score proficient may re-take the exam.
What are Project Based Assessments?

How are they related to the Keystone Exams?
These projects are aligned with each of the modules for the Keystone Exams.

Students who are unable to demonstrate proficiency on a Keystone Exam or Keystone Exam module may complete a project-based assessment in its place.

Therefore, a project-based assessment (PBA) that is aligned to the Keystone Exam or Keystone Exam module on which a student did not demonstrate proficiency shall satisfy the Chapter 4 Keystone Exam graduation requirements.

The Project Based Assessment system shall be administered by schools and scored by statewide review panels.
Who is involved in the Project Based Assessments?

• LEA Assessment Coordinator- administrator who will work with school assessment coordinators in each building to provide support in the implementation of the Project Based Assessments

• School Assessment Coordinator- Oversees the implementation of PBAs at the building level. The School Assessment Coordinator can also be the LEA.

• Tutor- Checks for content and quality of work as student is progressing towards completion. It is recommended that the tutor is a certified teacher in the content area of the PBA.

• Test Administrator- Assigned by school test coordinator to monitor students as they work on projects
Project Based Assessment Samples

Sample Packets on Tables

- Literature – BP Oil Spill (Module 2 – Non-Fiction)
- Algebra 1 – Daytona Beach, Here We Come! (Module 1)
- Biology – Is It Alive? (Module A – Cells and Cell Process)
Generally, the tutor performs the following functions

• Reviews project activities only at designated checkpoints to permit student to move to next task

• Ensures security of testing environment

• Provides instruction/remediation on the Eligible Content based upon student need but does NOT tutor or instruct on specific activities in PBA

• Reviews project or content and quality based upon scoring guide and submits project if satisfactory, for evaluation to statewide review panel

• Provides remediation for student if evaluated as unsatisfactory
IEP Team Decision Process

• Determine if Student will complete requirements for Standards Based Diploma
  • Includes completion of coursework, Keystones, or Project Based Assessment
  • PASA replaces Keystone Assessment Requirements

• Determine if Student will master Transition Goals and Outcomes in the IEP

• Determine if the Student will graduate, or return for additional programming in order to meet any requirements
Graduation Decision Making Matrix

Sweet, Stevens Katz and Williams LLP – March 2013

Graduation Standards Met—
- Proficient on All Required Keystone Exams or Project-based Assessments
- Successful Completion of All Required Standards-aligned Planned Courses (“Credits”)

Transition Outcomes Met—
- Mastery of All Annual Goals, and Satisfactory Completion of All Activities, Tied to Measurable Post-Secondary Goals

Graduation Standards Not Met—
- Sub-Proficient on Any One Required Keystone Exam or Project-based Assessment
- Failure to Complete Successfully or Wavier of Any Required Standards-aligned Planned Course (“Credits”)

Transition Outcomes Not Met—
- Failure to Attain One or More Annual Goals or Failure to Complete Any Activity Tied to Measurable Post-Secondary Goals
Questions?

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