

782 Springdale Drive, Exton, Pennsylvania 19341 • Phone: 484-266-1000 • [www.wcasd.net](http://www.wcasd.net)

Dear Parents of Students Enrolled in Algebra I:

April 25, 2022

The District is pleased to announce that the **class of 2023 and beyond** will be the first classes to benefit from the **expanded graduation options as defined by [new legislation, Act 158](#)**. After years of debate, Governor Wolf signed this bill into law in late-October 2019. **Act 158 allows school districts flexibility for students who do not pass all three Keystone Exams.**

According to Act 158, there will be several different pathways that students can use to graduate. Those full options are available on the [district website](#) and include some of following:

- Pass all three Keystone Exams.
- Pass Keystone Exams using a composite score (4452) as long as one of the test scores is proficient or higher.
- Pass district coursework, with additional evidence as part of the career portfolio.
- Pass alternate tests such as the NOTCI, NIMS, ACT, SAT, AP
- Pass via goals written in a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

In May 2022, Keystone Exams will be administered to students enrolled in a Keystone trigger course in the West Chester Area School District as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. There are no exceptions based on grade level.

Students who have taken or are currently enrolled in a Keystone trigger course and have never tested in those areas are required to test. All students who have previously scored non-proficient on any Keystone Exam will have the opportunity to re-test or per Act 158, choose the [Alternate Pathway](#) to graduation option. **With the implementation of Act 158, school districts are allowed flexibility for students who do not pass all three Keystone Exams.** Note that **participation in each of the three Keystone Exams continues to be a requirement for the class of 2023 (current 11th graders) and beyond.**

Each exam consists of two ninety-minute modules, and one module is administered on each of the two days. General information about the testing schedule, scores, and opting out are included within this letter and can be found on the West Chester Area School District [Assessment page](#).

If your child has taken a Keystone Exam in the past, you may find their "Best" Score on the WCASD Parent Portal found here <https://www.wcasd.net/Domain/1035>. The "Best" score represents the highest score earned to date when factoring in all attempts by an individual student on a specific exam. Students whose "Best" proficiency level is Proficient or Advanced will not retake that exam at any point in the future. There are helpful Parent Portal resources on the District website, as well as a link to assist you in retrieving your Username and Password.

Students must participate in testing if they are eligible to take a Keystone Exam. The only exemption provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is for religious reasons. In order to opt your child out of Keystone Exam testing, please contact the test coordinator at your student's school to make arrangements to preview the tests. After previewing the tests, any formal written waiver request must be sent to Dr. Robert Sokolowski, Superintendent of Schools. Please note that while the religious opt out may be granted, students will need to choose the [Alternate Pathway](#) option of fulfil their graduation requirement.

For each of the six days in May when Keystone Exams will be administered, students scheduled to take an exam are to report to school at the regular time. Please contact the testing coordinator at your child's school if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Dawn Mader  
Director of Equity & Assessment