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Dear Parents of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:

November 7, 2019

The class of 2022 (current 10<sup>th</sup> graders) and beyond will **graduate using the expanded options as defined by [new legislation, Act 158](#)**. According to Act 158, there will be **several different pathways that students can use to graduate**. Those options include one of the following:

- *Pass all three Keystone Exams.*
- *Pass Keystone Exams using a composite score as long as one of the test scores is Proficient or higher and the other two scores are Basic.*
- *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).*

***Participation in each of the three Keystone Exams continues to be a requirement.*** The WCASD provides students with as many opportunities as possible to demonstrate proficiency, including an opportunity for non-proficient students to re-test this winter. General information about the testing schedule, scores, and opting out are included within this letter and can also be found on the West Chester Area School District Assessment page.

**All students who previously scored non-proficient on any Keystone Exam will have the opportunity to re-test.** Those students who have taken Algebra 1, Biology, and/or English 10 **and have never tested in those areas are required to test.** All students *currently enrolled* in Algebra 1, Biology, and/or English 10 will take the respective exams in the spring.

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 your building principal to make arrangements to preview the tests. After previewing the tests, any formal written waiver request must be sent to Dr. Jim Scanlon, Superintendent of Schools.

Additional testing information can be found on the West Chester Area School District Assessment page. Please contact the testing coordinator at your child’s school if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Robert Sokolowski, Ed. D.  
Assistant Superintendent

Steven Werner, M.A.  
Supervisor of Assessment & Special Education