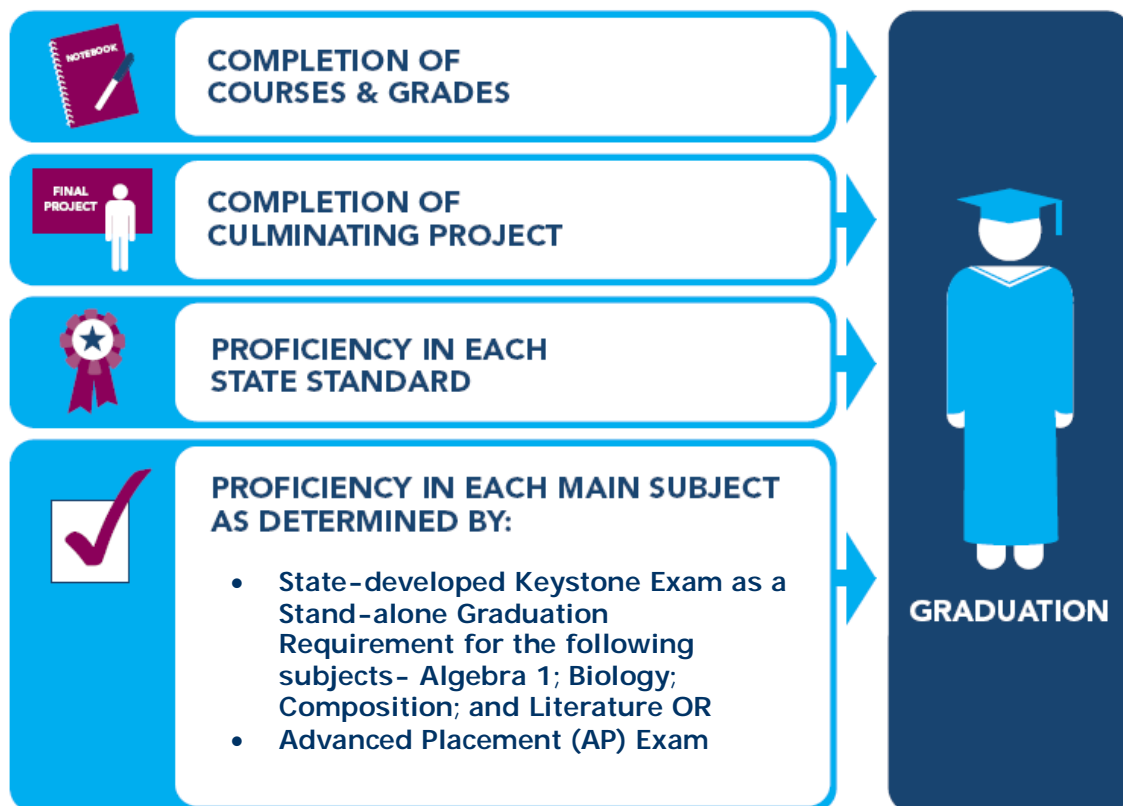


GENERAL INFORMATION

- The **Keystone Exams** are one component of Pennsylvania's new system of high school graduation requirements. **Keystone Exams** will help school districts guide students toward meeting state standards—standards aligned with expectations for success in college and the workplace. In order to receive a diploma, students must also meet local district credit and attendance requirements and complete a culminating project, along with any additional district requirements.
- The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficiency in many subject areas. The following Keystone Exams have been designed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to include: **Algebra I, Literature, English Composition, and Biology.**
- Other Keystone Exams currently under consideration for development are as follows: **Algebra II, Geometry, Chemistry, U.S. History, World History, and Civics and Government.**
- Students may take the **Keystone Exam** on completion of the corresponding coursework associated with the content area. For example, if a student completes Algebra 1 and is in 8th grade, s/he would complete the **Keystone Exam** for Algebra 1 at the end of the course. If a student does not enroll in Algebra 1 until his/her 11th grade year, s/he would be required to take the corresponding **Keystone Exam** at the end of 11th grade.
- If a student does not attain proficiency on a **Keystone Exam**, s/he will be required to attempt the exam a second time.
- If a student is not proficient after the second attempt, s/he will be required to complete a Pennsylvania Department of Education designed project and evaluated as 'proficient' by regional administrators in order to meet the graduation requirement for that exam.

- **Graduating classes subsequent to 2016** will be required to demonstrate proficiency on the **Keystone Exams** mentioned above. Additional **Keystone Exams** may be required as they are developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- Updates will be provided as new information becomes available.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has released information indicating the **Graduating Classes of 2015 and 2016 (current 7th and 8th grade students)** will be required the following to graduate from high school:



More information about Keystone Exams may be found on the Pennsylvania Department of Education website:

<http://www.pdesas.org/Assessment/Keystone>

Further information regarding the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Standards Aligned System may be found at the Pennsylvania Department of Education's home page. Follow the link below, and choose the SAS icon (an example is provided below):

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=7237&mode=2>

