

SOUTHERN LEHIGH

HIGH SCHOOL

Southern Lehigh Students and Families:

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has revised its graduation requirements for all students in the Commonwealth, beginning with the Class of 2022. Recent legislation reduced Pennsylvania's reliance on high stakes testing as a graduation requirement in order to provide alternate pathways for high school students to demonstrate readiness for postsecondary success. Formerly, Pennsylvania's graduation requirement was more restrictive, requiring most students to pass end-of-course Keystone Exams in Algebra I, Literature, and Biology. Senate Bill 1095 expands the options for students to demonstrate postsecondary readiness using four additional pathways that more fully illustrate college, career, and community readiness.

While there is no state-wide graduation requirement for the classes of 2019, 2020, and 2021, students, parents, and guardians should reference SLSD requirements regarding graduation. Beginning with the class of 2022, the state-wide graduation requirements will apply in addition to SLSD graduation requirements. Keystone Exams are the state-wide assessment that Pennsylvania continues to use to comply with accountability requirements in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Each state is expected to achieve 95 percent participation on its state-wide exams.

Within our current systems and offerings, Southern Lehigh students can meet the statewide graduation requirement by one of the following:

- Scoring proficient or advanced on each of the three Keystone Exams - Algebra I, Literature, and Biology
- Earning a satisfactory composite score of 4452 on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams
- Earning a passing grade on the courses associated with each Keystone Exam, and satisfactorily complete (as per cut scores determined by the state) one of the following: an alternative assessment (SAT, PSAT, ACT, ASVAB), advanced coursework (AP, concurrent enrollment courses), pre-apprenticeship, or acceptance in a 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education for college-level coursework.
- Earning a passing grade on the courses associated with each Keystone Exam, and passing the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) or the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) assessment in an approved Career and Technical Education concentration
- Earning a passing grade on the courses associated with each Keystone Exam, and demonstrate readiness for postsecondary engagement through three pieces of evidence from the student's career portfolio aligned to student goals and career plan. Examples of evidence will include SAT Subject tests, AP and concurrent coursework, higher education acceptance, community learning project, completion of an internship, externship or co-op or full-time employment.

By working together with teachers, counselors and administration, students and families will determine the most appropriate graduation pathway depending on their own unique abilities and skills. For additional information from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, click on this link: [Statewide Graduation Requirements](#). Should you have any questions or concerns specific to your student, please feel free to reach out to your child's school counselor.