



Albert Gallatin Area School District



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



PENNSYLVANIA
GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS

PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS:

Pennsylvania's New High School
Graduation Requirements

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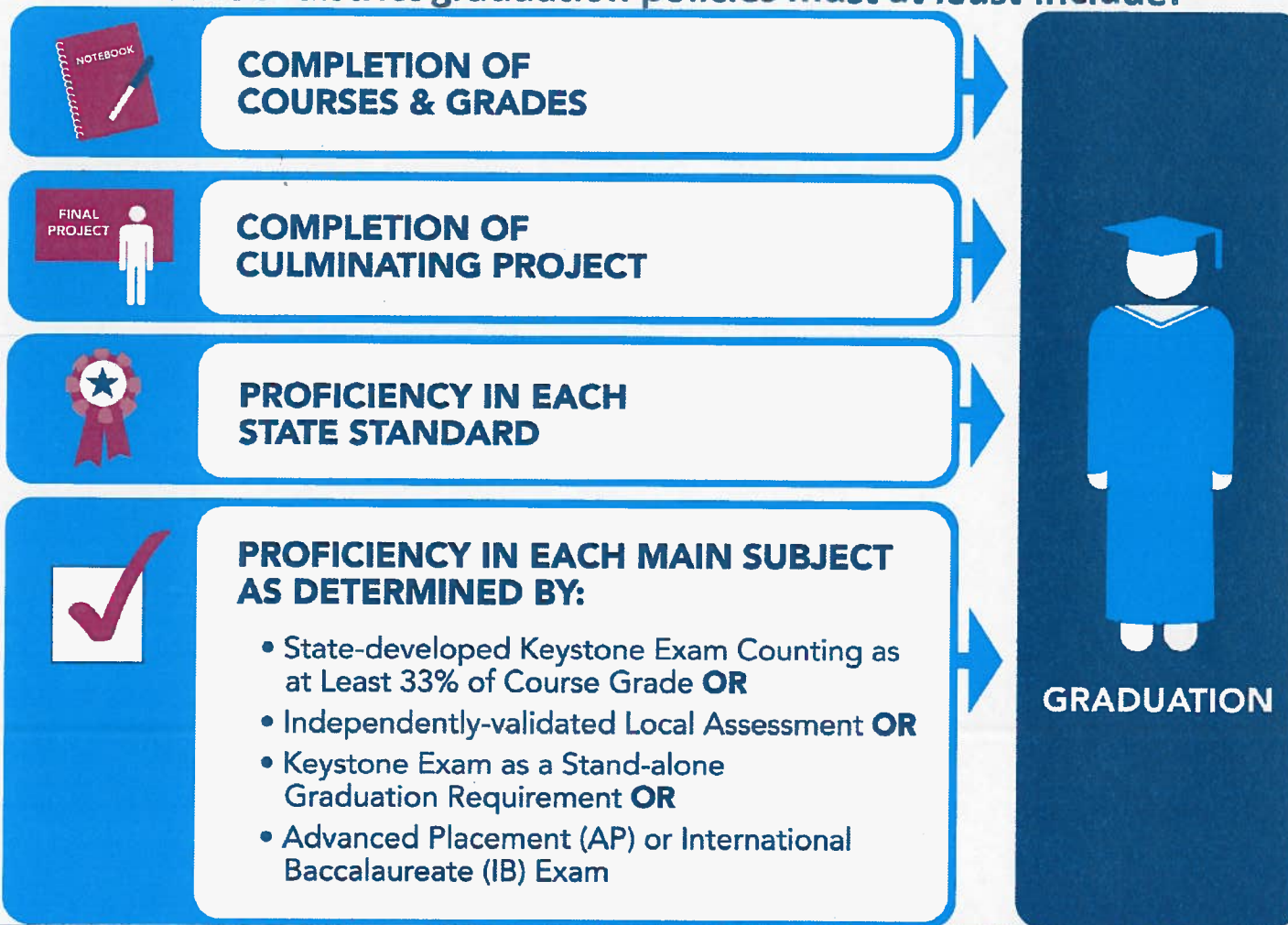
- Overview of Graduation Requirements
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Important Legislative Changes

On January 8, 2010, following approvals by the state's Independent Regulatory Review Commission and the Attorney General, the State Board of Education published changes to Chapter 4 that set stronger, more consistent high school graduation requirements for students, beginning with the class of 2015 – this year's 8th graders.

Graduation Requirements

School district graduation policies must *at least* include:





STAND ALONE GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Allows the district discretion on how to weight the assessment in course grades.

Use as final exam (20% vs. 33%)

Graduation Policy Phases: WHO?? WHEN??

PHASE ONE: Students graduating in 2015 and 2016 must demonstrate proficiency in:

- English Composition (9)
- English Literature (10)
- Algebra I
- Biology

PHASE TWO: Students graduating in 2017 and beyond must demonstrate proficiency in:

- Both English Composition and Literature
- Two of three Mathematics (Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry)
- One of two Sciences (Biology or Chemistry)
- One of three Social Studies (American History, Civics and Government or World History)



What's Happening When: Five-Year Implementation Plan

Course	Field Test	Available For All Schools
Algebra I, Biology, Literature	Fall 2010	Spring 2011
Algebra II, Geometry, English Composition	Spring 2011	Winter 2011-2012
U.S. History	Fall 2012	Spring 2013
Chemistry, Civics and Government, World History	Spring 2015	TBD

BREAKING NEWS:

ALGEBRA I, BIOLOGY, LITERATURE 10, & ENGLISH COMPOSITION ONLY

OTHERS ON HOLD FOR THE TIME BEING (\$\$\$, CURRICULUM UPDATES)



PA AYP Proposal to USDOE

- High School AYP Determinations
 - Algebra I
 - Biology
 - English Literature (10)
- Bank Scores Until 11th Grade
- Allow BEST Score to Count



WHAT ABOUT THE PSSA??

- 2011- 2013- PSSA
- 2014- KEYSTONE EXAMS (HS ONLY)
 - ALGEBRA I
 - BIOLOGY
 - ENGLISH LITERATURE
- SCORES BANKED, BEST SCORE COUNTS

Alignment to National Standards

- **Keystone Exams align with:**
 - **Common Core State Standards, adopted July 1, 2010**
 - **English Language Arts**
 - **Mathematics**
 - **PA Academic Standards**
- **Test questions for the Keystone Exams will be guided by Eligible Content on the Standards Aligned System website (www.pdesas.org)**



100-Point Scale

Each Keystone Exam is graded on a 100-point scale. To satisfy the graduation Requirements, students must score either *Proficient* or *Advanced*.

Performance Level	Points
Below Basic - no points toward course, graduation requirement not satisfied	0-49
Basic - points earned are awarded, but graduation requirement not satisfied	50-69
Proficient - points awarded, graduation requirement satisfied	70-89
Advanced - points awarded, graduation requirement satisfied	90-100



Test Format

Keystone Exam Questions:

- Includes multiple-choice questions and constructed-response, or open-ended questions.
- **Algebra I and Biology:** 60%-75% of the total score from multiple-choice questions and; **25%-40% of the total score from constructed-response questions**
- **English** 20% of the total score will come from multiple-choice, and **80% from constructed-response questions**

Keystone Exam Scoring:

- Each correct multiple-choice question is worth one point
- Partial credit could be given on constructed-response questions, depending on the rubric

Keystone Exam Format:

- Online and paper/pencil formats available for all Keystone Exams



Preparation Resources

Item and Scoring Sampler:

- Sample questions and scoring for each Keystone Exam are available to help prepare both students and teachers.
- The Item and Scoring Samplers include:
 - Multiple-choice and constructed-response practice questions
 - Examples of how constructed-response questions will be scored
- Available on the SAS website (www.pdesas.org)



Retesting

Students can take the Keystone Exam up to 3 times per school year.

- Students who don't score 'proficient' can retake the entire test or just the module they didn't pass
 - SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER, MAY
- Retesting scoring will be based on the highest module scores, so it is in the best interest of the student to retake the entire Keystone Exam
- If a student has not achieved proficiency after 2 attempts, he/she can complete a project-based alternative to demonstrate his/her knowledge in the subject matter



Project-Based Assessment

A student who does not achieve proficiency on a Keystone Exam after 2 attempts will be eligible to complete a project-based assessment.

Projects will be:

- Aligned with Keystone Exam modules
- Developed by the department and administered by school staff
- Scored by regional panels of educators

Graduation Requirements Resources

Visit the new Graduation Requirements section of the SAS website for updated information, resources, and events: www.pdesas.org/Assessment/Graduation

The screenshot shows the SAS (Standards Aligned System) website for the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The header includes the department's name, the SAS logo, and a search bar. A navigation menu highlights 'Fair Assessments', with sub-links for 'Clear Standards', 'Assessment Creator', 'Reference Materials', 'Classroom Diagnostic Tools', and 'Graduation Requirements'. The 'Graduation Requirements' link is active, showing a sub-menu with 'Overview', 'Communication Tools & Resources', 'Implementation Timeline', and 'Updates & Events Calendar'. Below this, the 'PENNSYLVANIA GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS' logo is displayed. A section titled 'Pennsylvania's New Graduation Requirements' features a blue icon of a person and a text block explaining that the new requirements will help guarantee that a Pennsylvania diploma reflects the skills and knowledge of graduating students. It mentions that these requirements will allow districts to ensure students are meeting state standards and that the SAS site provides downloadable resources, customizable tools, and templates to help educators better inform parents and students. A link to 'frequently asked questions' is provided. At the bottom, there are two boxes: 'News and Announcements' with a date 'Join us December 5-8, 2010 for the SAS Institute: Bridging Research and Practice', and 'Contact Us' with the email address 'ra-gradreq@state.pa.us'.

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SAS Standards Aligned System

Welcome, Guest | Login | Teacher Tools | Home | Help

Search | Advanced Search

Clear Standards | Fair Assessments | Curriculum Framework | Instruction | Materials & Resources | Interventions

About | Keystone Exams | Assessment Creator | Reference Materials | Classroom Diagnostic Tools | Graduation Requirements

Overview | Communication Tools & Resources | Implementation Timeline | Updates & Events Calendar

PENNSYLVANIA GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Pennsylvania's New Graduation Requirements

The Commonwealth's new graduation requirements will help guarantee that a Pennsylvania diploma reflects the skills and knowledge graduating students need to be successful in college and the workplace. These requirements will allow districts to ensure students – beginning with the class of 2015 – are meeting state standards. Through the SAS site, the Pennsylvania Department of Education will provide downloadable resources to guide planning and implementation, customizable tools and templates to help educators better inform parents and students, and general information and [frequently asked questions](#) concerning the new graduation requirements, including the [Keystone Exams](#).

News and Announcements

Join us December 5-8, 2010 for the SAS Institute: Bridging Research and Practice

Contact Us

For more information or questions about Pennsylvania's new Graduation Requirements contact us at ra-gradreq@state.pa.us

AG's Commitment to Preparing Students for Success

TRANSITION INITIATIVES

- FRESHMAN STEP UP DAY
- ALGEBRA I/GEOMETRY PREP ACADEMY
- ALGEBRA II PREP ACADEMY
 - Those entering Algebra II as a Freshman STRONGLY Encouraged to Attend
 - Information will be Forthcoming

TRANSITION TO MORE RIGOROUS CURRICULUM

- ALGEBRA I- TWO PARTS
 - ALG A
 - ALG B
- GEOMETRY
- ALGEBRA II

AGHS FRESHMAN SEMINAR

OFTEN ASSUMED

- Students know “how to learn” by 9th grade.

OFTEN THE CASE

- However, students often enter high school without knowing how to
 - Take notes
 - Study
 - Organize their time
 - Work in a positive manner with peers and adults



AGHS FRESHMAN SEMINAR

GOALS

- To equip Freshmen with the skills necessary to become responsible students
- To introduce tools needed for 9th graders to meet their full potential

PROMISING RESULTS

- Fewer fights
- Less disciplinary infractions
- Better attendance
- Improved study habits
- Enhanced time management skills
- Better prepared for rigorous high school coursework
- Improved relationships with peers and adults
- More goal-oriented behaviors



WHO?? WHEN?? WHY??

- Offered to 9th graders during their first semester at the high school.
- Designed to promote a successful transition by acclimating students to
 - high school requirements
 - expectations
 - opportunities for involvement



WHAT IS COVERED??

Freshman Seminar is divided into two 9 week modules:

- Personal Development
- Self-Management

Students learn:

- time management
- conflict resolution
- self-advocacy skills

Freshmen are also afforded opportunities to practice communication skills that help them diffuse social dilemmas and cope with peer pressure..



WHAT IS COVERED??

Through a wide variety of hands-on activities, students receive the guidance and academic/ social support needed to thrive in their new environment.

Other emphases include:

- career awareness
- study/test taking strategies
- organizational skills
- ethical behavior
- problem-solving techniques

ALBERT GALLATIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



“Committed to Ensuring Student Success”

Thank You for Your Time & Attention!!

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