The Pennsylvania Department of Education is requiring that school districts administer the Keystone Assessments for Biology, Algebra I and English Composition during the 2012-2013 school year to meet the United States Federal regulations for No Child Left Behind. Please click on the attached power point to view the design of the Keystone Assessments, the requirements this year and beyond and the impact on your child.

The assessments will impact the following students this school year:

**Middle School**
- Beginning with the 8th grade class (Class of 2017), students will be required to show proficiency on all Keystone assessments (Biology, Algebra I and Literature) for graduation. Any student taking Algebra I will be required to take the Algebra I Keystone and pass it as part of his/her graduation requirements.
- The Biology and Literature Keystone will be given in high school and will also count towards graduation.

**High School**
- Keystones exams will replace the 11th grade PSSA assessment.
- All 9th grade students are required to take the Algebra I Keystone assessments.
- All 10th grade students are required to take the Algebra I, Biology and Literature Keystone assessments. Many students at this grade level took the Algebra I Keystone in 8th grade and are not required to retake the assessment if they were proficient or advanced at that time.
- All 11th grade students are required to take the Algebra I, Biology and Literature Keystone assessments.

The District understands that standardized testing can be stressful for our students. We will be diligently working to ensure that students are well-prepared, comfortable, and confident to participate in the competency assessments that are mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

For more information on Keystone exams please contact Dr. Alexis McGloin, Penn-Delco Assistant Superintendent, at 610-497-6300 x1314 or amcgloin@pdsd.org.
Pennsylvania Common Core and The Keystone Exams
Transition to Common Core

- Pennsylvania adopted Common Core Standards in 2010.
- The transition to PA Common Core Standards began in 2011.
- The PSSA assessment will begin transitioning this year at the elementary level.
- The 6-8 PSSA assessment will begin transitioning during the 2013-2014 school year.
- The PSSA assessment will be eliminated at the high school level. It will be replaced by the Keystone Exam.
Transition to Common Core

• 2012 Grades 3-5 will see embedded field test items aligned to PA Common Core Standards during PSSA testing

• 2013 Grades 3-5 will take a PA Common Core PSSA with writing included in the exam

• 2013 Common Core PSSA will include the writing assessment embedded in the Reading and Math test for Grades 3, 4 and 5
Transition to Common Core

• 2013 – Grades 6-8 will see embedded field test items aligned to PA Common Core Standards during PSSA test

• 2014 – Grades 6-8 will take a PA Common Core PSSA with writing embedded

• 2014 – Common Core PSSA will include the writing assessment embedded in the Reading and Math test for Grades 6, 7 and 8
Keystone Exams (2012-2013)

- All 11th grade students will take the Algebra I, Literature and Biology Keystone to meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
- All 10th grade students will take the Algebra I, Literature and Biology Keystone to meet the requirements of NCLB. The scores will be banked until students are juniors.
- All 9th grade students will take the Algebra I Keystone to meet the requirements of NCLB. The scores will be banked until students are juniors. This class will take the Biology and Literature Keystone in their sophomore year.
Keystone Exams (2012-2013)

• All 7th and 8th grade students enrolled in Algebra I will take the Algebra I Keystone as part of graduation requirements and to meet the requirements of NCLB.

• Beginning with the class of 2017 (our current 8th grade) and moving forward, students will need to be proficient on the Algebra I, Literature and Biology Keystone to graduate.
Format of the Keystone Exam

• Each test is made up of two modules
  – Math – Operations and Linear Equations and Inequalities AND Linear Functions and Data Organization
  – Biology – Cells and Cell Processes AND Continuity and Unity of Life
  – Literature – Fiction Literature AND Non-fiction Literature
Format of the Keystone Exam

• Each test will occur over two days
• One module will be administered per day
• Estimated total time for completion (According to PDE)
  – Algebra 149 Minutes
  – Biology 144 Minutes
  – Literature 146 Minutes
A. Write a polynomial expression, in simplified form, that represents the area of the canvas. Keng adds a 3-inch-wide frame around all sides of his canvas.

B. Write a polynomial expression, in simplified form, that represents the total area of the canvas and the frame.

Keng is unhappy with his 3-inch-wide frame, so he decides to put a frame with a different width around his canvas. The total area of the canvas and the new frame is given by the polynomial $h^2 + 8h + 12$, where $h$ represents the height of the canvas.

C. Determine the width of the new frame. Show all your work. Explain why you did each step.
Biology Keystone Released Question
Proteins are a major part of every living cell and have many different functions within each cell. Carbohydrates also perform numerous roles in living things.

**Part A:** Describe the general composition of a protein molecule.

**Part B:** Describe how the structures of proteins differ from the structures of carbohydrates.

**Part C:** Describe how the functions of proteins differ from the functions of carbohydrates.
Literature Keystone Released Question

Read the sentences from the passage (7 pages)

“‘What does it mean, Flightsend?’ she asked. ‘I don’t know. Flightsend. Flight’s End. Well, that’s what it is, isn’t it? An end to—well, to everything that’s gone wrong.’ Charlie thought: I don’t want ends. I want beginnings.”

Analyze the significance of these sentences to the passage. Use information from the passage to support your analysis.
What has Penn Delco School District done to prepare our students?

- Implemented MIC and CPM at the secondary level to align with Common Core and prepare students for the Algebra I Keystone
- Rewrote the English/Language Arts curriculum to ensure that at the end of 10th grade students are prepared for the Literature Keystone
- Rewrote the English/Language Arts curriculum to ensure that at the end of 9th grade students are prepared for the Composition Keystone
- Hired a math tutor at the high school to pull small groups for remediation
- Moved Civics and Government to 9th grade to prepare for the impending Keystone
Keystone Assessment Windows

• Winter Wave 1 Keystone Window  
  December 3-14, 2012

• Winter Wave 2 Keystone Window  
  January 9-23, 2013

• Spring Keystone Window  
  May 13-24, 2013
## Keystone Testing Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Window</th>
<th>Winter Wave I</th>
<th>Winter Wave II</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 7 &amp; 8</td>
<td>8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grade that took Algebra I in 7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grade</td>
<td></td>
<td>Algebra I Keystone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 9</td>
<td>Algebra I Keystone (for students who took Algebra I in 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grade)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Algebra I Keystone (for current Algebra I students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 10</td>
<td>Algebra I Keystone</td>
<td></td>
<td>Biology Keystone Literature Keystone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 11</td>
<td>Algebra I Keystone</td>
<td>Literature Keystone</td>
<td>Biology Keystone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Keystone Exams (2012-2013)

What happens if a student is not proficient?

• The student must retake the exam
• After school tutoring will be offered
• Math tutor will be available for remediation
• Possible intervention software
• May need additional time in class in subject in which they need to be remediated
Keystone Exams (2012-2013)

• Any 11th grade student not proficient on the Algebra I or Literature Keystone will retake the assessment in the spring after remediation. They will not retake Biology if they are not proficient.

• A student in any other grade who is not proficient on a Keystone (Algebra I, Biology or Literature) will retake the assessment once he/she is properly remediated.
For more information visit:


Or Contact:
Dr. Alexis McGloin, Assistant Superintendent
610-497-6300 ext. 1314
amcgloin@pdsd.org