

T/E



CONESTOGA HIGH SCHOOL
TREDYFFRIN/EASTTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
200 IRISH ROAD • BERWYN, PA 19312-1260 • 610-240-1000

April 2021

Re: Spring 2021 Keystone Exams

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am writing to provide you with an update on Keystone Exams (Algebra 1, Biology, Literature) that applies to your child(ren). Considering the circumstances of the pandemic, the state has made changes to the Keystone Exams for this school year, including flexibility on test dates and a waiver of the 95% participation rate requirement. Regardless of whether students are attending school virtually or in person, in order to participate, students must be present in person during the administration of the Keystone Exams, as there is no option for virtual testing. Health and safety procedures will be in place, including daily symptom screening, masking, and maintaining six feet of physical distancing to the extent possible but no less than three feet. With this in mind, you have the option to have your child(ren) participate or not participate in Keystone Exams testing this school year.

The Keystone Exams will be administered as follows:

June 9 – Algebra I

June 10 – Biology

June 11 – Literature

For further information regarding the Keystone Exams, please find the attached documents from the Pennsylvania Department of Education: Information for Parents and Guardians, Calculator Policy, Code of Conduct for Test Takers, and a letter detailing the consequences should any students possess a prohibited electronic device such as a cell phone, tablet and/or smartwatch during testing.

According to the state, it is a graduation requirement for students in the class of 2023 (current grade 10 students) and beyond to demonstrate proficiency in Algebra 1, Biology, and Literature through one of four pathways. Additional information from the Pennsylvania Department of Education regarding these pathways can be found at the [Statewide High School Graduation Requirement](#) portion of the PA Department of Education's website. As soon as a student is enrolled in their first course related to the three Keystone Exams, we begin to keep track of which pathway they are using to meet the requirements.

Whether or not you choose to have your child(ren) participate in Keystone Exams testing at this time, students must still achieve the graduation requirement through one of the four pathways as detailed in the following link: [Keystone Exam Paths to Proficiency](#). Many of our students achieve the PSAT or SAT score that is needed in Pathway 2. In fact, most of our students who have taken the PSAT already achieved the required score (970). The PSAT/NMSQT will continue to be offered to students in grades 10 and 11 next school year. Additional information related to the Keystone Exams can be found on the District website at [T/E School District's Approach to Keystone Exams](#).

If you would prefer to have your child(ren) NOT participate in Keystone Exams testing this school year, then there are two options for non-participation which are outlined below:

1. Since the state has granted a waiver of the 95% participation rate requirement, you may choose not to have your child(ren) participate.
2. The state provides for the right of parents/guardians to excuse their child(ren) from Keystone Exams testing if, upon inspection of the testing materials, the assessment is in conflict with their religious beliefs. An option will be included in the form which can be accessed using the link at the end of this letter for parents/guardians who wish to review the assessment materials.

More information will be shared prior to the test dates. In the meantime, ***please complete the following form included in this link by April 30 to let us know your decision regarding the Keystone exams. Be sure to complete one response per student.***

Feel free to contact me at singhc@tesd.net or 610-240-1018 with any questions. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Chandra Singh
Assistant Principal