

Avon Grove High School
Keystone Exam
Frequently Asked Questions

What are the Keystone exams?

Keystone exams are state-mandated end-of-course assessments designed to evaluate proficiency in Algebra I, Biology and Literature. Each Keystone exam is divided into two parts called modules. Student scores are based on the total points earned from the two modules combined. The scores are then broken down into the following categories: *Advanced*, *Proficient*, *Basic* and *Below Basic*.

Are the Keystone exams required?

Beginning with the graduating class of 2023, students will be required to demonstrate proficiency by scoring in the Advanced or Proficient range showing mastery of content in each of the 3 Keystone courses **or** fulfill one of the other state-designed pathways to graduate. Students will be offered multiple opportunities to take the Keystone exams throughout their high school careers.

How many times can a student take a Keystone exam?

Keystone exams are initially given at the end of each Keystone-assessed course. If a student does not score *Proficient* after taking a Keystone exam, he or she will be given opportunities to take the exam during other exam windows. The Avon Grove High School offers students the opportunity to take the Keystone exams during 3 different exam windows: *Spring*, *Summer* & *Winter*. Students are not penalized for the number of times they choose to retake a Keystone exam. Once a student scores *Advanced* or *Proficient* he/she has met the graduation requirement and is finished with that exam.

If a student is unable to achieve a proficient score on a Keystone Exam, the student will work with his or her guidance counselor to create a plan to complete an alternative Keystone Pathway for Graduation.

What are the PA Graduation Requirement Pathways?

[Pathways to Graduation](#)

Can individual students opt out of Keystone exams?

As with Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests, parents may review Keystone exams per state regulations and opt out for religious reasons. If a student opts out of the Keystone exams, the student is still required to complete one of the statewide graduation pathways in order to fulfill all graduation requirements.

Can a student receive accommodations on the Keystone exams?

Students with special needs will receive accommodations as outlined in their IEPs/504s, subject to any limitations the state has placed on a particular test.

How will Avon Grove prepare students to take the Keystone Exams?

Avon Grove School District ensures that the curriculum is aligned to the state standards. The Keystone exams are completely aligned with the state standards; therefore, our students are very prepared to “show what they know” when it is time to take the Keystone exams. Avon Grove High School uses Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDTs) to identify student strengths and needs and provide students opportunities to practice the types of questions they will see. With the use of CDT, PVAAS and classroom data, Avon Grove teachers intervene during Intervention periods (IE), provide practice with Study Island and use a variety of other strategies and techniques to prepare students for the Keystone Exams.

Is the school required to put the Keystone proficiency level on a student’s transcript?

No, Keystone exam scores will not be listed on student transcripts.

What happens if a student has a concussion or other significant medical issue and cannot take a Keystone Exam during the testing window?

Students experiencing a significant and sudden medical condition preventing them from taking a Keystone Exam during the testing window must have a note from their doctor stating the reason for the temporary exemption. The note must include start and end dates for the condition. Any student who misses the testing period will make-up the missed Keystone Exams at the next available window. Students who are unable to take a Keystone Exam due to a significant and sudden medical condition will also be unable to participate in extra-curricular activities during the testing window.

What can families do to support and prepare students for the Keystone exams?

- Be aware of testing dates and schedules.
- Ensure students are in regular attendance to school.
- Ensure students get a good night’s sleep, especially during testing windows.
- Know how to access supports for review and practice, if needed.
- Reach out to teachers, administrators or guidance if you have any questions or concerns.
- Remain positive about the test and the experience.