

April 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Spring Keystone Exams will be administered May 13- 24, 2019. Students are expected to report to school at the normally scheduled time, and testing will commence at 8am. If a student is late to arrive to the school or to the test, he/she will be scheduled to take that assessment on a scheduled make-up day.

What are the Keystone Exams?

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to evaluate proficiency in academic content. **Beginning with the class of 2020, students must demonstrate proficiency on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams to graduate.** Students will be offered multiple opportunities to take the Keystones throughout their high school careers.

Who will participate in the Keystone Exams?

In 2012-13, the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams replaced the 11th grade Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSA) in math, reading and science for the purposes of student, educator, and school accountability. Students should take the Keystone Exams at or near the end of a Keystone-related course. The students' results are banked until their junior year for accountability purposes and until their senior year for graduation purposes. Some students who previously completed a Keystone-related course but did not take the Keystone Exam will also participate for accountability purposes. Additionally, students who take a Keystone Exam and do not score Proficient may re-take the exam.

When will the exams be offered?

The Keystone Exams will be administered at TCHS-Pickering one or two times each year—winter and spring. Specific administration dates will be published by the Pennsylvania Department of Education on the SAS website at www.pdesas.org.

Who decided what Keystone Exams should measure?

Groups of educators from across Pennsylvania chose the areas of knowledge on which the Keystone Exams are based. The groups included teachers, supervisors, curriculum directors and college specialists. These groups also reviewed, edited, and approved exam questions.

What is assessed on the Keystone Exams?

Pennsylvania adopted the PA Core Standards, standards aligned with expectations for success in college and the workplace. The keystones are designed to measure these standards.

How long is a Keystone Exam Administration?

There is no time limit for a student to complete a Keystone Exam. Each Keystone Exam should take the typical student 2 to 3 hours to complete. There are two modules on each test, and each module (or Test Session) of the Keystone Exam should take 1 to 1.5 hours to complete.

What types of questions are on the Keystone Exams?

The Keystone Exams will include multiple-choice questions and constructed response, or open-ended questions. For each Keystone Exam, approximately 60% to 75% of the total score will be from multiple-choice questions and 25% to 40% of the total score will be from constructed-response questions.

How are the results reported?

Two copies of the individual student report for all Keystone Exams are sent to the school district. One copy will be sent home to parents/guardians; the other is kept by TCHS.

May parents see the Keystone Exams?

Parents and guardians may review the Keystone Exams if they believe they may be in conflict with their religious beliefs by making arrangements with the School Test District Coordinator (Mrs. Petters) once the exams arrive at the school. Confidentiality agreements must be signed, and no copies of the Keystone Exams or notes about exam items will be permitted to leave the school. If, after reviewing the Keystone Exams, parents/guardians who do not want their child to participate in one or all of the exams due to a conflict with their religious beliefs, they may write a letter specifying their objection to Mrs. Petters prior to the beginning of the exam(s) to request to excuse their child from the exam(s). This letter must be received in Mrs. Petters office by no later than May 6, 2018.