



# Neshaminy School District

Administrative Offices • 2250 Langhorne-Yardley Road • Langhorne, PA 19047

*We Build Futures*

April 21, 2022

Dear Neshaminy Parents and Guardians,

This letter provides detailed information regarding the Keystone Exams as well as the required opt-out procedures. The content of this letter is lengthy, but necessary in order to provide the required information.

## **Keystone Participation:**

The Keystone Exams are the Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) annual standards-based assessment used to measure a student's attainment of the Pennsylvania Academic Standards in Literature, Algebra 1, and Biology. Keystone Exams continue as the statewide assessment Pennsylvania uses to comply with accountability requirements set forth in the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Although students will no longer be required to achieve proficiency on the Keystone Exams to meet the statewide graduation requirement, students will continue to take the Keystone Exams for purposes of federal accountability. Should a student not score proficient on one or more Keystone exams, they will need to demonstrate postsecondary preparedness through one of four additional pathways as detailed by Act 158 of 2018.

Any student who is enrolled in English 10, Algebra 1 and/or Biology during the **current** 2021-2022 school year will be automatically rostered to take the designated Keystone this May.

The Keystones will be administered online in your child's school building, and students will use their district issued 1:1 Chromebook to complete the assessment(s). Specific assessment schedules regarding the times of each assessment will be provided by your child's school principal.

## **Keystone Opt-Out Procedures:**

Chapter 4 of Title 22 of the Pa. Code (22 Pa. code 4.4) provides for the right of any parent/guardian to excuse their child from the state assessment if, upon inspection of the testing materials, they find the assessment to conflict with their religious beliefs. This is the only basis for a parent/guardian to excuse their child from the statewide assessments. Should a student Opt-Out of one or more Keystone exams, they will still need to demonstrate postsecondary preparedness through one of four additional pathways detailed by Act 158.

Parents and guardians may review the Keystone if they believe that it may be in conflict with their religious beliefs by making arrangements with the School Principal once the exams arrive in the school building. All assessments are scheduled to arrive in District the week of May 2, 2022. Parents and Guardians must sign the Parent Confidentiality Agreement prior to examining test materials. A copy of this agreement will be maintained at the school.

Finally, if after reviewing the test, parents/guardians find the test to be in conflict with their religious beliefs, you may choose to opt your child out of taking one or more of the Keystone Assessments. In order for a student to be excused from the test, parents/guardians must provide a written request that states this to the District Assessment Coordinator, Mr. David Geanette at [dgeanette@neshaminy.org](mailto:dgeanette@neshaminy.org). Please note, parents must submit a separate request for each child you are requesting to be excluded including the student's building and Keystone subject area.

Thank you for your support throughout the Keystone testing sessions. Again, while we respect your right to opt your child out of a Keystone exam, please keep in mind that if you choose to opt your child out of a Keystone exam, they will still need to demonstrate postsecondary preparedness through one of four additional pathways detailed by Act 158. Details on these pathways can be found at the link below.

[Act 158 Pathway Information](#)

If you have additional questions, please contact my office directly or your child's school principal.

Sincerely,

Jason Bowman

Assistant to the Superintendent

Director of Secondary Education

215-809-6550