



Neshaminy School District

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

April 24, 2023

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 is 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.

Any student who is enrolled in English 10, algebra 1 and/or biology during the **current** 2022-2023 school year will be automatically rostered to take the designated Keystone this May. Some additional students (mostly juniors) will be taking one or more Keystones as needed to help meet graduation requirements.

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

Keystone Testing Dates	
Biology	May 22 & 23, 2023
English 10 (Literature)	May 18 & 19, 2023
Algebra 1	Middle School: May 17 & 18, 2023 High School: May 15 & 17, 2023

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 his/her child from the state assessment if, upon inspection of the testing materials, he/she finds the assessment to conflict with his/her religious beliefs. This is the only basis for a parent/guardian to excuse his or her child from the statewide assessments.

Parents and guardians may review the Keystone questions if they believe they may be in conflict with their religious beliefs by making arrangements with Kim Katona for the high school (215-809-6105) or office staff at the middle schools once the exams arrive to the school building. All assessments are scheduled to arrive in District the week of May 1, 2023. 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 parents/guardians find the test to be in conflict with their religious beliefs and wish their student(s) to be excused from the test, parents/guardians must send a written request to opt their child out of the assessment for religious reasons. Send these requests to the District Assessment Coordinator, Mr. David Geanette, at dgeanette@neshaminy.org. Please note, it is important to submit a separate request for each child you are requesting to be excluded for religious reasons.

Thank you for your support throughout the Keystone testing sessions. If you have additional questions, please contact our office directly or your child's school principal.

Sincerely,

Michelle Burkholder

Jason Bowman

Assistant to the Superintendent

Assistant to the Superintendent

Director of Elementary Education

Director of Secondary Education

215-809-6554

215-809-6550