

April 26, 2024

Dear Neshaminy Parents and Guardians,

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

### **Keystone Participation:**

The Keystone Exam 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* 2023-2024 school year will be automatically rostered to take the designated Keystone this May. Some additional students 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.

<b>Keystone Testing Dates</b>	
Biology	May 16 & 17, 2024
English 10 (Literature)	May 13 & 14, 2024
Algebra 1	Middle School: May 15 & 16, 2024 High School: May 20 & 21, 2024

### **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 a statewide assessment(s).

Parents and guardians may review the Keystone questions if they believe they may conflict with their religious beliefs by contacting the school building his/her child attends to make an appointment to view the assessments. For high school students, please contact Mrs. Kim Katona (215-809-6105). For middle school students currently enrolled in Algebra 1, please contact the principal's office to schedule a time to review the assessment. 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 assessment you find the test to conflict with your religious beliefs and wish to excuse your child from the test, you must send a written request to opt your child out of the assessment for religious reasons. Written requests can be sent to the District Assessment Coordinator, Mr. David Geanette, at [dgeanette@neshaminy.org](mailto: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 Mr. David Geanette or your child's school principal.

Sincerely,

Michelle Burkholder

Assistant to the Superintendent

Director of Elementary

215-809-6554