



LANCASTER COUNTY ACADEMY

C/O Central Penn College

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January 23, 2023

Attn: Parents/Guardians

Dear Caregiver:

The Pennsylvania (PA) Department of Education issued new guidelines for students to graduate from high school. See the *Pennsylvania Pathways to Graduation* document. Students who have not passed/taken their Keystone Exams will meet graduation requirements via an alternative pathway. One such artifact is to complete/pass CareerLink's Ready-to-Work program (ACT WorkKeys). See section one under the evidence-based pathway in the *Pennsylvania Pathways to Graduation* document.

Ready-to-Work is a national program promoted through the State. Students take a three-hour pre-test at school on basic academic skills that employers value. Then they watch several videos on soft skills for the workplace with associated quizzes. Soft skills include things like communication or leadership at work, being on time, being respectful, having a good work ethic, etc. Finally, students take a three-hour post-test on academic skills like basic math and English skills and interpreting data. This final test must be taken at the CareerLink building located at 1046 Manheim Pike, Lancaster, PA. Students must provide their own transportation to the final exam. If transportation is an issue, please contact us to work something out.

Note that if the student passes the pre-test, they still need to take the post-test. If a student does not pass the pre-test with 80% or better, they will be given remedial practice problems to enable them to pass. The entire process usually takes six to eight weeks. Students may work on this online program at school or at home. Students must complete the program in three months.

This Thursday, January 26, we are asking all East students to arrive at school by 9:30 a.m. for a Ready-to-Work informational session. Interested students will then sign up. To register for the program, students will need to complete an application and verify their identity. CareerLink is asking that students bring either an original or a copy of the following documents: birth certificate, social security card, and driver's license *or* old school ID. Interested students should bring as many documents as possible for Thursday's session; however, a CareerLink representative will work with students who cannot bring the materials with them on Thursday.

In addition to serving as a possible graduation artifact, other benefits include looking good on the student's resume and getting hiring preference from employers, as well as the possibility of being eligible for up to \$10,000 of FREE money for career training programs in high-demand careers, like skilled trades, healthcare, and technology. Students who complete Ready-to-Work do not have to do job shadowing for school.

Questions regarding graduation pathways can be directed to our Executive Director, Dr. Ryan McFadden, at rmcfadden@lca.k12.pa.us or 717-740-3660. If you have any questions about Ready-to-Work, please direct them to Debi Schmidt, at dschmidt@lca.k12.pa.us or 717-368-1865. Thanks so much!

Sincerely,

Debi Schmidt, M.Ed.
School-to-Work/Service Learning Coordinator

Pennsylvania Pathways to Graduation

Keystone Proficiency Pathway

Numeric or Non-Numeric Scores

Algebra I
Proficient or Advanced

Biology
Proficient or Advanced

Literature
Proficient or Advanced

Keystone Composite Pathway

Numeric Scores Only

At least 1 Keystone Exam scaled score is
1500 or Greater

No Keystone Exam score is
Below Basic

The Keystone Exam 3-score composite is
4452 or Greater
The Keystone Exam 2-score composite is
2939 or Greater
(where eligible under §121.1)

CTE Concentrator

Meet locally established, grade-based requirements for Keystone content in which the student is less than Proficient

CTE Concentrator

1 Artifact from pathway criteria

Alternative Assessment

Meet locally established, grade-based requirements for Keystone content in which the student is less than Proficient

Alternative Assessment

1 Artifact from pathway criteria

Evidence-Based Pathways

Meet locally established, grade-based requirements for Keystone content in which the student is less than Proficient

Evidence-Based

3 Artifacts from pathway criteria

Waiver

A student in 12th grade, or experiencing extenuating circumstances, who meets locally established grade-based requirements for Keystone content area(s) in which the student is less than proficient, and is unable to satisfy the requirements of a graduation pathway may be granted a waiver by the chief school administrator.

Individualized Education Plan

A student with a disability who is unable to satisfy pathway requirements but who satisfactorily completes a special education program is granted a diploma under Title 22 §4.24.

Pathway Criteria

CTE Concentrator	Alternative Assessment	Evidence-Based
1 Artifact	1 Artifact	3 Artifacts consistent w/student goals ONE or more from Section One No more than TWO from Section Two
<p>Industry-based competency certification</p> <hr/> <p>Likelihood of industry-based competency assessment success</p> <hr/> <p>Readiness for continued engagement in CTE Concentrator program of study</p>	<p>Attainment of one alternative assessment score or better: ACT (21), ASVAB AFQT (31), PSAT/NMSQT (970), or SAT (1010)</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of Gold Level or better on ACT WorkKeys</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of 3 or better on AP Exam(s) related to each Keystone content area in which less than Proficient</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of 4 or better on IB Exam(s) related to each Keystone content area in which less than Proficient</p> <hr/> <p>Successful completion of concurrent enrollment course(s) related to each Keystone content area in which less than Proficient</p> <hr/> <p>Successful completion of a pre-apprenticeship program</p> <hr/> <p>Acceptance into accredited, non-profit Institution of Higher Education (IHE) 4yr program for college-level coursework</p>	<p>Section 1</p> <p>Attainment of 630 or better on any SAT Subject Test</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of Silver Level or better on ACT WorkKeys</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of 3 or better on any AP Exam</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of 3 or better on any IB Exam</p> <hr/> <p>Successful completion of any concurrent enrollment or postsecondary course</p> <hr/> <p>Industry-recognized credentialization</p> <hr/> <p>Acceptance into accredited, non-profit Institution of Higher Education (IHE) for college-level coursework in an other-than-4yr program</p> <hr/> <p>Section 2</p> <p>Attainment of Proficient or Advanced on any Keystone Exam</p> <hr/> <p>Successful completion of a service-learning project</p> <hr/> <p>Letter guaranteeing full-time employment or military enlistment</p> <hr/> <p>Completion of an internship, externship, or cooperative education program</p> <hr/> <p>Compliance with NCAA Division II academic requirements</p>